

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 1907

BERHAMPORE SESSION

Compiled by
Yatindrakumar Ghosh

Distributors
Firma K. L. Mukhopadhyay
Calcutta

Published by
Yatindrakumar Ghosh
Adhyayan
20/A Gobinda Sen Lane
Calcutta-12
Phone 34-6135

Printer
Susilkumar Ghosh
Susil Printers
2 Iswar Mill By Lane
Calcutta-6

FOREWORD

In pursuance of the project to compile reports on the Bengal Provincial Conferences, let me present the readers of Bengal's political history the report on the Bengal Provincial Conference of 1907 held at Berhampore. Last August I compiled the reports on 1913 Conference. Needless to say, there is no special significance in selecting the particular years. It all depends on my success in getting access to the newspapers from which I draw my materials.

The Berhampore Conference was held in 1907 after the Barisal Conference in 1906. The latter ended in a fiasco or so claimed the British Government. The delegates there were assaulted, the Conference was dispersed, a national leader was arrested, no announcement could then be made regarding the venue of the next Conference. Babu Baikunthanath Sen took the initiative and after sounding Chittagong, Dacca and Faridpur, which did not respond, offered Berhampore to hold the Conference. Berhampore hosted the 1895 Conference too. The selection of the venue raised a controversy. It was considered by some as an undemocratic selection, when leaders took a decision without consulting people who

were coming forward to take part in national politics. This undemocratic appearance was more accentuated when the Berhampore delegates came up to the Conference site during the session and found the common people of Berhampore indifferent to the whole affair. This was rather painful after the historic Barisal Conference where people rose to a man against the autocracy of the local police authorities during the Conference.

The 1907 Conference was unusual also in the sense that the Reception Committee invited a Bihari barrister to preside, Mr Dipnarain Singh. This was an attempt to attain unity across provincial lines.

The Conference should have been an important one, because it was held in the context of the Bengal Partition, Swadeshi Movement and communal riots at Comilla. The deliberations were however rather tame. In fact it was gradually being understood that the days of orthodox agitation were coming to a dead end. The passing of resolutions, the delivery of speeches and the submission of petitions were felt to be futile in the face of the ruthless repression of the foreign rulers. In fact the 1907 Conference threw into relief the dissent of those people who were later known as the Extremists. No open clash was made but the forebodings were there. The contradictions were too obvious. The Chairman of the Conference made a speech that was out and out loyalist. The President reverberated with the spirit of nationalism. The response of the delegates, 1500 in number, was an indicator; they cheered when the President made his

speech; they were shocked when they heard the Chairman singing paeans to the British Crown.

Materials for the present volume have mostly been drawn from *The Bengalee* and *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

15 August 1917

YATINDRAKUMAR GHOSH

Contents

Welcome to Delegates	1
Baikunthanath's Statement	2
Chairman's Address	5
The Presidential Address	22
Meeting of the Subjects Committee	37
Second day's Proceedings	38
Resolutions	39
Last day's Proceedings	53
Next Conference at Pabna	71
Vote of thanks	71
Some Relevant information about the Conference	75
(I) Notice issued	75
(2) A letter to the Editor of the Bengalee	76
(3) An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 22.3.07	78
(4) From a Bhagalpur Correspondent	78
(5) From a Faridpur Correspondent	79
(6) & (7) Notice to delegates	80
(7) Notice to Members of Students Union	80
(8) Babu Pareschandra Dasgupta, writes	81
(9) Notice to Delegates Proceeding from Calcutta	82
(10) Notice on 28.3.07	83
(11) Election of Delegates	83
(12) An Editorial Note of the Bengalee	122
(14) An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 29.3.1907	122
(14) An Editorial Note of the 'Amrita Bazar Patrika'	
on 29.3.1907	124

(15) First day's Proceedings as reported in the Amrita	
	Bazar Patrika 131
(16) Second days	138
(17) Third days	142
(18) An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 3.4.07	144
(19) Conference Misrepresentations	148
(20) An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 4.4.07	150
(21) Bengal Provincial Conferences	167

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 1907

Welcome to Delegates

About 1,500 delegates, arrived at Berhampore on the 29th March of 1907—to attend the Bengal Provincial Conference. The whole town was then in mourning for the death of Maharaj-kumar Mohimechandra Nandy, B.A., the eldest son of the Maharaja of Cossimbazar, whose gentle nature and amiable disposition won the heart of everybody who had come in contact with him and who freely mixed with every class of men rich or poor and was a staunch supporter of the Swadesi cause. And hence there were no flags, nothing of outward ostentation in the welcome, the reception still was warm and cordial.

The Chairman and members of the Reception Committee including Baikuntha Babu and also about one hundred volunteers were present at the station,

and were all attention to the delegates. The arrangements were excellent and nothing was left to be desired.

The Conference met at 4 p. m. on the 29th March. More than 4,000 people were assembled including visitors, representing all classes. Delegates from almost all districts attended. Intense enthusiasm prevailed, despite the calamity in the Raj family.

Baikunthanath's Statement

Babu Baikunthanath Sen made the following statement :—

“At the beginning, brother delegates, communications received by letter and wire and certain criticisms in certain papers necessitate a statement from me, as regards the question why Berhampore invited the Conference this year, as regards why the 29th of March has been fixed for the first sitting of the Conference and why Mr. Dipnarayan has been nominated President. On account of the mishap, well known to you all, the Conference could not be held at Barisal and no announcement could then be made as to where the next Conference would be held this time, up to the First or Second March. There was no indication from anywhere, from any district of Bengal, East or West, where the Conference could

be held. It was at Berhampore that the first peripatetic Conference was held and people feared that, this time, there would be a collapse. On account of this apprehension alone Berhampore has come forward, I consulted locally with my friends and then also with friends outside Berhampore. It was in consultation with them that it was decided that the Conference would be held here for the third time. I issued a letter on the Ninth March to different leaders of different districts, which explained why the Conference was to be held here. Before this Chittagong, Dacca and Faridpur were asked if the Conference could be held in any of those places, but there was no ready response. This was the reason why Berhampore undertook to hold the Conference.

As to why the 29th of March was fixed for the first sitting :—

Exception has been taken to this and I regret to say that even motive has been attached to the announcement of the day (cries of 'no'). It has been suggested—no, insinuated—that the 29th has been intentionally fixed, in order that certain delegates might not attend. I emphatically deny such intention. There was to have been another Conference here, I mean the Literary Conference. It is only owing to a misfortune of a serious nature,

the dire calamity that has befallen to the Cossimbazar Raj, that the Literary Conference has been indefinitely postponed. It was so arranged that the Literary Conference should be held here from the 31st, so it was determined that the Provincial Conference would sit on the 29th. Holidays in the mofussil commence from the 29th ; it was thought, that gentlemen, who like to come, would be able to come on the afternoon of the 29th. This meeting is being held in the afternoon to afford facilities to every gentleman willing to come up. Delegates from Dacca, Mymensing, Rungpur and Chittagong arrived here yesterday. So every gentleman who had any real desire to come could come in time.

Now as to the election of the President by the Reception Committee :—

You know I have been trying in the first instance to see if I could get a Mahomedan gentleman of influence, authority and position to preside over our deliberations. Certain difficulties arose and I did not succeed in that, then I received a communication from my Behari friends and from some of my friends of Bhagalpur. You know how Bhagalpur has been working in regard to the Swadeshi cause. There are some leaders in Bhagalpur, who are devoting all their energies and time and making very very large sacrifice for the promotion of the

Swadeshi cause. Some of them suggested whether or not a gentleman of Behar could be invited to preside. I at once took up the idea and the name of Mr. Dipnarain was suggested to me. Now you will judge whether we made any mistake in our selection (cries of 'no, no'). I consulted with my local friends and friends in Calcutta and it is with their consent that I thought of electing Mr. Dipnarian. This is all my fault. Now I hope you will candidly and fairly exculpate us from such charges as have been insinuated against us. We are no autocrats or democrats—so no motive should be imputed to us.

Chairman's Address

The Chairman of the Reception Committee Rai Srinath Pal Bahadur then opened the Conference welcoming the delegates :—

Brother Delegates,

I rise to accord on behalf of the Reception Committee as representative of the various communities in our district, our most cordial welcome to this town of Berhampur, which had the honour, the privilege and delight, of meeting you twice in the revolutionary course of the conference from year to year. We cannot but congratulate ourselves on the fact that the overwhelming gloom which threatened

the horizon for a time last year has at last cleared up under an invigorating and genial sun-shine. Our cause has triumphed, though the triumph has not been without scars, but the scars are none the less the scars of victory. The choice of the field of operations for this year, may be regarded with disappointment by some, but it is overlooked that, however different the locality, every inch of the ground is 'United Bengal' all the same. The work and progress of our Conference and the movements which it represents are always beset with some difficulties ; nor is it pleasant to contemplate the distrust and suspicion with which they are regarded by some. Time and again the question has been asked 'What is the utility of these Annual Meetings ?' These are some of the problems with which we are confronted, and it behoves us to convince the public of the honesty of our intentions and motives and the usefulness of the objects we have in view by dissipating the clouds of misconception and alarm which hover round the prospect.

Nothing is farther from our thought than to repudiate or supplant British Rule. England has raised India from a state of deep ignorance in which she was sunk for ages ; security of life and property has been assured ; religious toleration has been extended to all classes of the community, foreign

invasion has become a thing of the past. These and thousand others are the blessings of British Rule. Recognising, as we do these inestimable benefits of British Rule, and having given tangible and unmistakable proofs of our appreciation, nothing can be more preposterous than to question our gratitude and loyalty. But much as we may admire what England has done for India it is our bounden duty, as representatives of the people, to point out the defects, errors and abuses in the administration, offer our healthy criticism of all legislative and administrative measures, respectfully invite the attention of the authorities to our grievances, to submit for their sympathetic consideration, our legitimate wishes and aspirations begotten of Western culture and thought, to appeal to the justice of the British Nation, as represented by the King and his Parliament, when our grievances are not redressed, to devise means for the advancement and development of indigenous arts and industries with a view to promote the material prosperity of the country. These are our responsibilities created by the situation. To discharge the sacred trust constitutionally with sincerity, earnestness and perseverance is the be-all and end-all of the Conference. Rightly speaking, therefore, our object is to co-operate with and help Government in the administration of the

country by presenting the people's view of the case with respect to all matters affecting their welfare. The conference is not, as has not unfrequently been represented by some of our Anglo-Indian critics, a gathering of discontented demagogues, the rank and file of native society, sitting in solemn conclave to devise the best means for sending the Englishmen away bag and baggage from the country, with other concoctions and falsehoods of the 'Golden Bengal' order, that blessed document of world-wide notoriety; but an assembly of sober, representative men of light and leading, the ornaments of our society, some of whom are possessed of culture, intelligence and experience that would do honour to any Legislative Council in the European Continent who are bent upon helping the Government according to their lights, by the best possible advice.

It is often said, and there is no denying the fact, that our representations do not always meet with an adequate and satisfactory response, that our grievances and demands for the most urgent reforms have failed to commend themselves to the sympathetic consideration of the powers that be, that although we have been pressing for years upon the attention of Government, the expediency of the early separation of Executive and Judicial functions of the Magistracy, the expansion of the Legislative Councils on a

more popular basis sufficient to secure a fair and adequate representation of the interest concerned, and the most burning question of the day, the repeal of 'Bengal Partition', that most unholy measure of Lord Curzon, originated in the unholiest principles, hatched in secret conclave and sprung upon startled Bengal in spite of her united protest, our best efforts have not been crowned with success. The justice and gravity of the grievance are certainly undisputed. It is calculated to arouse feelings of bitterness and resentment. Indeed a note of disappointment and alarm prevails in certain quarters with a growing consciousness of the futility of the mendicant policy.

Speaking of Partition, however gloomy the prospect, we are not without a gleam of hope. Confidence in the strength of our cause comforts us with the belief that if we can steer her course with wisdom at the helm, and moderation, patience and perseverance at the prow, she will win her way. We must not budge an inch from our gratitude and loyalty to the British Government, however severe the test. We are not like the people under a Government like that of Russia, or France before the revolution, where a despotic monarch backed by a strong bureaucracy, fond of prestige and power, hoary with the traditions of antiquity, where a monarch with a strong hereditary disregard for all

representative institutions and armed with Sedition and Press laws of the most rigorous character goaded the people into inactness and desperation, where a king by his continued neglect of the most crying reforms brought about such an alienation of feeling as resulted in a deadlock of the whole administrative machinery and culminated in a crisis that swept away everything before it.

Our sentiments of loyalty and gratitude for the Sovereign engrained in us from our birth and enjoined in us as they are by our religion will never be shaken, be the result what it may. And after all why should we despair? If undaunted by official frown we can pursue the agitation for the repeal of 'Partition' constitutionally and with steadiness and sincerity, with patience and perseverance as our 'motto', if we can throw our whole heart and soul into the work, strengthened and supported, as we are, by our Mahomedan brethren, whose interests are bound up with our own, and who, inspired by the noblest of motives, have cast in their lot with ours with considerable sacrifice, and who, barring some isolated instances, have undertaken to stand by us through weal and woe, we are sure to achieve the object in view in the long run, the discouraging utterances of Mr. John Morley notwithstanding. The political movement in the history of nations,

have never run a smooth course. They have triumphed after many a hard and persistent struggle spreading over ages.

Next in importance to the Partition question is the question of expansion of our Legislative Councils on an extended popular basis. It is said that transplantation of Western institutions into a foreign soil is productive of more harm than good, that so far as the representative of the popular element is concerned, the greatest caution should be observed in the application of the principle, and that as yet the country is not ripe for its extension according to the Indian idea. The fallacy of the statement is evident. Your whole administrative machinery is worked on western principles, but when it comes to a question of so called prestige, you shrug your shoulders and say "The reform is not suited to the instincts of the people" or words to that effect.

The object lesson presented by Mysore and Travancore is entirely ignored. After all, it is too late in the day of dispute the adaptability of the graft to the Indian soil, in defiance of satisfactory results of experiment.

The proposed reform is one of vital importance. The want of adequate representation of the popular element is one of the crying evils persistently pressed upon the attention of Government. No community

can rise in the scale of nations, that has no voice in the Legislature of the country. The happiness and prosperity of a people depend upon the exercise and enjoyment of the privilege. It is the wider and more liberal recognition of the principle, than what obtains at present, that is our primary aim. The culture, growth and advancement of our society, and the signs of the times justify the wished for concession. If an Oriental Sovereign like that of Persia with hereditary notions and traditions of absolute power can emancipate and raise his people, sunk in degradation and slavery, to a state of political liberty by one stroke of the pen, how much more the reason that Great Britain, that mother of Parliaments, the cradle and nurse of representative institutions, should accede to our modest demands. True to her promise she has immortalised her victory over the Transvaal by the grant of a liberal constitution to a loyal and grateful people. Australian Commonwealth is at once her pride and glory, and would she deny us now a fraction of that boon, that would be the crowning triumph of British rule in the East.

It is gratifying to contemplate some of the recent declarations of the Ministers at Home of their Indian policy. It is a hopeful augury that proposals in the direction of the much needed reform are just now engaging the attention and consideration of

the Government of India on the initiative of Mr. John Morley. We are awaiting with interest the publication of the Scheme which it is hoped will meet our expectations.

The separation of the Executive and Judicial functions of the Magistracy is a subject of no less importance. Those who have followed the controversy, and read the literature on the subject cannot but have been struck with the absolute unanimity that prevails all round as to the mischievous character and effects of the dual control exercised by our Magistrates. Armed with the authoritative views of some of the most eminent Judges of the High Court, fortified with the unbiased and corroborative testimony of many an executive officer of long standing and experience, we have persistently urged the necessity and the expediency of an early amendment of the law on the subject. That the existence of the evil is not denied justice of our grievance is admitted; but why defer the reform? It will be replied, "On financial grounds." But did such considerations carry any weight when the Partition measure was thrust upon Bengal in hot haste in spite of our emphatic and strong protest, lest the pet Scheme of Lord Curzon might not survive his administration? May we hope Lord Minto will accord our representations a sympathetic

treatment and wipe out the foulest blot in the Criminal Administration of the country ?

These are some of the reflections which suggest themselves to me at the opening of the Conference, and which I have taken the liberty to indulge in at the expense of your valuable time and patience, which, I am afraid, have been already over-taxed. But if you would allow me to go on, I would make a few more observations on some other matters without forestalling your deliberations.

I have often thought that our District Boards and Municipalities are rather Departments of Government under absolute official control than Institutions for the political education of the people which the great originator of the Local Self-Government Scheme, the most popular of Viceroys, Lord Ripon, had in view. One is led to believe that the division of management of the two bodies, the one represented by a non-official, and the other by the Magistrate of the District, was the outcome of an implied compact brought about by a policy of conciliation. Inaugurated under such unhappy auspices, and fostered in an atmosphere of official hierarchy these Boards have lost much of that spirit of independence with which they started. Interference in the pettiest details, aggravated by not unfrequent declarations of the wishes and intentions

of the authorities couched in euphemistic and courteous terms often hammer the free discussions of these assemblies. The trend of the proposed legislation amending the local Self-Government Act with provisions favouring the delegation of good many powers to the Divisional Commissioners is calculated to perpetuate the present state of things.

Nor is the spectacle of financial embarrassments of these Boards (primarily due, in the case of District Boards, to a diversion of Road Cess Fund to other than legitimate uses,) pleasant to contemplate. The most important Sanitary reforms, Road repairs and a host of other matters are often neglected for want of Funds to the detriment of the health of our mofussil towns and rural areas. Periodic outbreaks of Cholera, Small-pox and Malaria brought about by the unwholesome and foul water of our village tanks, disgraceful condition of the village and district roads,—these are some of the worst features of the bankruptcy of our District and Town councils. Nor can the practice, the authorities of those Boards sometimes resort to, of approaching the landed gentry of our community for contributions towards the repairs of Roads be strongly condemned. Why should they be asked to pay twice over for objects covered by the Road Cess ?

It is thus obvious that to enable these Boards

and Municipalities to justify their existence, grants should be made from Imperial Revenues. The right policy would be to strengthen them with sinews of war before you condemn them, as has sometimes been done, as so many failures.

Now that the Local Self-Government Bill is on the anvil I would invite your attention to and consideration of the advisability of a representation to Government on the lines indicated.

One of the most important Bills now under the consideration of Government is the Bengal Tenancy Bill. The strongest and most prominent feature of the proposed amendment is the provision about the non-applicability of the measure to Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Tenancy law has been in force for years in both parts of Bengal. Nothing of importance has occurred so far to justify the different consideration and treatment of the respective rights of the land-lord and the tenant involved in the proposals. There has been no change worth the name in the traditions and conditions of our society. Experience of the smooth working of the current law repudiates any such idea. It passes our comprehension therefore as to why there should be a break in the uniformity. The situation has given rise to feelings of suspicion and alarm in some quarters. It has been remarked, not without some show of reason

that the proposed legislation is of a piece with the retrograde policy of Lord Curzon that launched forth 'Partition' upon Bengal, and that it constitutes the first stage in the development of that policy.- We hope that with the further progress of the legislation through the council, the motives and intentions of Government will be better understood, and all apprehensions of the character referred to will be dissipated.

Whatever the difficulties we may be confronted with, whatever the disadvantages we may labour under, success depends upon ourselves unless we organise some efficient scheme on definite and practical lines for carrying on our work, our chances for attaining the objects in view will be as remote as ever. I do not propose to anticipate to your deliberations by outlining any such Scheme. But I only suggest its necessity with the hope that you will give the matter your best attention and serious consideration before the Session of the Conference is brought to close. Nor can I emphasize too strongly the importance of the help and co-operation of the body of honest and earnest workers like our late Mr. Anandamohon Bose, held in the highest regard for his amiable qualities, unassuming manners and modest patriotism, our late Rev. Kalicharan Banerji, universally esteemed for his

simplicity of life and philanthropy, and whose memory is associated with varied activities conducive to the Social, Moral, Religious and Political welfare of the Indian community, our late Babu Nalinbihari Sircar whose public spirit and devotion to Municipal interests inspired us with respect and admiration. The lives of these great men are examples of moderation and patriotism, which we will do well to imitate and the more we are imbibed with the spirit which animated them the more equipped and qualified we are for the campaign.

- It has often been observed that the want of social intercourse between Europeans and Indians is responsible for much of the prevailing misunderstanding and lack of sympathy between them. There is no reason why conflict of interests and politics should interfere with the growth of a friendly feeling. To my mind, the idea of starting Indo-European clubs where both the community can meet on a common platform on terms of equality and friendship should be welcome and given practical shape on some such lines indicated in the proposals lately discussed at Calcutta.

The recent utterances of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the last Annual meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal are most opportune and

full of hopeful augury. They will certainly give a stimulus to the movement. It is hoped that His Honour's advice to the members of the Indian Civil Service, remarkable for their ignorance of the language, customs and manners of the Indian people, will not be lost upon them. There is no doubt that they will now avail themselves of the opportunities for a better intercourse with the Indians such as the proposed Indo-European clubs will afford. Frequent interchange of views and discussions of current topics will have the desired effect. The motives and intentions of Government will be understood and a more sympathetic appreciation of the wishes and aspirations and the views of the people will pave the way for the attainment of the objects we have in view.

None the less important is the maintenance of harmonious relations between Hindus and Mehomedans. Our traditional amity is sometimes disturbed by the machinations of interested parties. The recent occurrences at Comilla point to the necessity of combined and united action on the part of the leaders of both communities with a view to the prevention of such friction as disfigured the history of that town. By the way it is really regrettable that the circumstances under which the disturbance took place, should give rise to the worst suspicions

implicating the local officials. It is also unfortunate that their indiscreet conduct should have been construed into a departure on the part of Government from their traditional policy of neutrality and impartiality. But whatever doubts and alarm might have been raised, they have been, we are glad to note, set at rest by the subsequent assurances of our sympathetic Viceroy, whose strong disapproval of the action of the Comilla Executive has restored confidence in the motives and intentions of Government.

Disturbances of this kind are often fraught with consequences of the most serious character. They create mutual distrust and suspicion, which it should be always our aim to avoid and prevent. To my mind, the best way to achieve our object, lies in the formation of District Associations with Branches, representative of both communities.

Whatever the advantages of political advancement of a people, they sink into insignificance when compared with the blessings which Industrial prosperity brings in its train. A liberal constitution representative of the best interests of a nation may advance and thrive for a time, but its progress soon comes to a standstill, if indigenous Arts and Industries are allowed to decay. It is, therefore, a hopeful augury that the industrial spirit, stimulated

by an unpopular legislation should now permeate the nation all round.

In its growth lies our salvation. No people can rise that does not strive to achieve their Economic independence.

The brilliant results of the recent Exhibitions, bearing a strong testimony as they do, to our Industrial capabilities, cannot but stimulate our activities in that direction. They inspire us with the confidence, that whatever our disabilities, we can hold our own in the great strife for Commercial Supremacy, the most prominent feature of the age. Now that we have awakened to a consciousness of our strength, to ensure our material prosperity we should turn the vast resources of the country to good account by the investment of capital on a large scale. It is indeed a happy omen that following in the wake of this upheaval of the national mind some Cotton Mills and Hand-loom and other Industries have sprung into existence. But for all that we have yet to multiply these concerns with a view to an abundant increase of our goods and manufactures. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that to obtain perfection we must assimilate what is good in the West and reject what is bad. We must also recognise the wholesome principle that artificial help dictated by patronage and philanthropy however good in their

way and useful for a time will never enable our industries to survive the severe strain of competition, the ruling commercial "evil of the day. Economic laws will always prevail. It is quality, quantity and cheapness that should be our aim, and when this is achieved, and not till then, our Economic Independence will be assured with its most logical consequence and the inevitable result, the complete boycott of foreign goods.

With these remarks I beg to bring my address to close and invite you to the business of the Conference by electing your President.

Election of the President

Proposed by Babu Surendranath Banerjee, seconded by Babu Ambikacharan Majumder and supported by Mr. A. Chowdhuri Mr. Dipnarain Singh, Bar-at-Law, distinguished patriot of Bhagalpur, was elected President of the Conference.

The Presidential Address

Rising amid prolonged shouts of Bandematarm the President Mr. Dipnarain Singh delivered the following address :—

Members of the Reception Committee, Brother Delegates, and Countrymen,—

We have all been terribly shocked to hear of the

irreparable loss that Maharaja Manindrachandra Nandi of Cossimbazar has suffered in the sad and untimely death of his son—Maharajkumar Mahim-chandra Nandi. The sad event has cast a gloom over Berhampur, and, I may add, all over Bengal. I am sure, I am voicing the feelings of the whole Conference when I express our deep and sincere sorrow at this mournful event and I, in the name of the Bengal Provincial Conference, offer heartiest condolence to the Maharaja and the bereaved family. Gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for the kind words you have said about me and the great honour you have done me in electing me your President this year. I feel sure many of you present here to-day would have filled the Presidential Chair far more worthily than I can ever hope to do. Believe me, if I felt that were you guided in your choice by considerations of merit and ability alone my conscience would not have permitted me to accept this high distinction in the face of claims far greater than mine. But I accepted the Presidentship of this great assembly because I took it not only as an honour to myself but as a high compliment to the province I come from. When I saw United Bengal hold out her hand in friendship and sincerity to her sister province of Bihar, I, as a Bihari, who has the best interests of his province, as one who has the

honour and chivalry of Bihar nearest his heart, could not refuse. I am here, indeed, as simply one of the representatives of my town of Bhagalpur, but I have too much faith in the good judgment and the innate courtesy of my compatriots to doubt for a moment that they fully appreciate the honour and confidence you have shown towards Bihar in choosing one of her sons to preside over the deliberations of this conference.

Gentlemen, there may be differences of opinion between Bengal and my province and I will revert to these later on ; but I feel convinced, every Bihari will endorse me when I assure you that we have nothing but unqualified admiration for the great services Bengal has rendered and is rendering in the cause of the Motherland. You may well be proud of your achievements within the last two years. Your province has witnessed the birth of Indian Nationalism, and the spread of this new spirit, that is now thrilling every part of the country, is mostly due to your efforts.

Gentlemen, we cannot attach too much importance to the power of this new spirit. It will be no exaggeration to say that every political, social and economical movement of the day is the direct outcome of it. It has done wonders already and it is destined to do miracles hereafter. It is this spirit

of 'Nationalism' that has lent its soul to the Swadeshi movement; it is this noble passion that has infused in you the spirit of self-reliance and self-sacrifice.

I consider this new spirit of Nationalism to be the most important instrument in our hands for the regeneration of our country and I have no hesitation in saying that the first and the most important duty of every Indian patriot is to keep alive this sacred fire. I appeal to our leaders, both of Bengal and Bihar, to let no party differences and geographical divisions interfere with the growth and spread of this divine spirit. Confident as I am of the ultimate triumph of Indian Nationalism, it is impossible not to be grieved at the obstacles that are being thrown in the path of its progress. I am not afraid, Gentlemen, of the opposition that we are receiving from the Government of the country. That the alien bureaucracy should be alarmed at this awakening of the national mind is but natural. The deliberate campaign that has been set on foot to crush this rising spirit is also not surprising. But what makes the blood of every honourable man boil is the unholy attempt that is being made to set one community against the other—to play the Mahomedans against the Hindus, the Bengalee against the Bihari, the new party against the old. Our differences, Gentlemen, can only be

questions of more claim or less claim—greater rights or lesser rights ; surely these must sink when the question of claim or no claim—right or no right—is before the country.

I believe that, in politics as in everything else, honesty is even the best policy. If there are complaints or grievances that one party has against another, let them be put forward, discussed and threshed out in representative assemblies like this. And if all of us exercise tolerance and take up the discussion in the spirit of give and take, there is no reason why an understanding should not be arrived at. If nothing, the strong sense of the harm that we are doing by party conflicts to the national cause ought to induce us to make sacrifices to bring about unanimity of action.

Every Patriotic Indian is pained, grieved and deeply concerned at the unsympathetic attitude that a small portion of the Mahomedan community of Eastern Bengal (shame) has shown towards the national movement of the day. I cannot believe, Gentlemen, that any section of this great community—a community whose very religion breathes liberty and democracy—can long remain impervious of the new sentiment of nationalism. (Hear, Hear.) I appeal to all educated Mahomedans to cast their eyes over the moslem world and observe for

themselves how the national spirit is inspiring the minds of the people of Persia, Egypt, Turkey and distant Morocco. I can tell you from my personal experience and observation how the band of Egyptian patriots, led by the redoubtable Mustafa Pasha, has spread the spirit over the length and breadth of their country—till now awakened to her national consciousness. United Egypt is asserting her right to swaraj in no uncertain voice. "Egypt—not for the Britisher, no even, mark you, for the Sultan of Turkey, but Egypt for the Egyptians" is their national cry. They in Egypt are Moslems as devout as you, they also acknowledge the Sultan of Turkey as their religious head and are prepared to shed their blood in his service. Yes, they will give their lives for the Caliph, but never their liberties and are you, members of the same great religious community prepared, willing to sell your birth-right for the sake of official favour? Is the smile of a bureaucrat so sweet that you must purchase it at the price of your honour and self-respect? I exhort you, in the name of the love you bear to the land of your birth, to join your Hindu brethren in the work of regenerating our common motherland. We are Indians first, Hindus and Mahomedans, Bengalees and Biharis afterwards. Let "India for Indians" be the motto of every race and community in the country. (Hear, Hear.)

I know, the more thoughtful members of the Mahomedan community advance more reasonable grounds for not joining the national movement of the day. They feel that representative self-government in the country would be prejudicial to the interests of their community. They believe the Hindus will acquire a towering predominance which will swamp the opinion of the minorities and excite permanent jealousy among them. Such honest objections are worthy of the best consideration of the country at large. But I beseech my Mahomedan compatriots not to make this difficulty a plea for keeping aloof from us.

The more brotherly course would be to come in large numbers to the national representative assemblies of the country and there to put forward your objections, to discuss your differences.

The problem of reconciling a representative self-government with the claims and susceptibilities of separate and unequal communities, though not easy, is not insoluble.

The framers of the American Constitution solved it, over a hundred years ago, by a federal form of Government in which the governing power was invested in the President and the Congress. This Congress, it was agreed, should consist of two Houses—the Upper called the Senate and the lower—the House of Representatives. In the Upper House

each State, irrespective of size or population, was to have two senators. In the Lower the number of representatives were to be proportioned to the population of the States. Thus the smaller States were saved from being altogether subjected to their larger neighbours. Austria-Hungary has also attempted to solve this problem in her Reform Bill which she passed a few months ago. The remarks of a writer in the 'Spectator' on this question seems to me to so exactly apply to our present state of affairs, that I cannot do better than quote them verbatim.—

“By far the most important feature of the Réform Bill is the attempt to supersede the old system of electoral symmetry and to create a racial and linguistic basis for each separate electoral division. This is the sole effective means of ensuring the protection of minorities, assaults upon whose existence have been the great source of racial friction in Austria. So long as public life remains a fierce struggle for the mastery between rival races, political paralysis must ensue. A better state of affairs can never be reached until ‘live and let live’ has been adopted as the only possible motto for a State so complex as the Austrian Empire. By giving the people as a whole a direct interest in electoral results, such as they never previously enjoyed a decided step has been taken towards substituting a national for a

provincial patriotism. The possibility of racial compromise has been subjected to practical tests and the result is a project of mutual concession which contains the germs of reconciliation between the different races."

Well, Gentlemen, if Austria, made up of a number of distinct races, differing from each other in manners, customs, language and religion, has been able to develop a national and representative form of Government, there is no reason why India, under almost identical circumstances, should not be able to do the same.

Another disagreement which is causing bad blood between the leaders of political life in Bengal is that which has recently arisen between the Old and the New parties. This difference, Gentlemen, is as unseemly as it is fruitless. I shall not presume to argue either party into giving in unto the other, but only base my appeal on the good sense of both. Now that the Indian National Congress has placed before itself the ideal of 'Swaraj', it seems to me that the difference between the two parties lies only in the method of working out that ideal. You are quite welcome to have honest differences of opinion and to work on your own lines, but it is most undesirable that you should cause unnecessary friction by imputing unworthy motives to each other.

For Heaven's sake do not retard the attainment of the ideal which you both have in view. India can ill afford to present her best sons to waste their energies in useless and harmful bickerings and recriminations.

Coming now to the business before the Conference, the Partition of Bengal—the burning question of the hour—claims our first attention. Gentlemen, I will not attempt to advise you on this subject so near your heart. There are wrongs which brook no interference ; there are feelings and sentiments too deep for even one's nearest neighbours to gauge. I know I should not be doing justice to the question if I attempt to discourse on it. The indignation that United Bengal feels at this most arbitrary and uncalled for measure can only be expressed by one of her sons. I merely wish to add my tribute of admiration and homage to the grit and manliness you have shown in so staunchly adhering to your vow of the memorable 16th of October, 1905. The spectacle of the 'Two Bengals', in spite of persecutions and prosecutions, after 18 months of the roughest treatment at the hands of the Government, standing firm together, bent on asserting the unity of their motherland and the solidarity of their race, is a sight for the gods to witness. Do not give up the struggle. Right is on your side and the sympathy

and good will of the whole nation are with you. Depend upon it, in time and in good time, you are bound to succeed.

It is a matter of regret, but duty compels me to place before you now the subject of the separation of Bihar. The desirability of the separation may be a matter for discussion, but there is no doubt that its accomplishment cannot be unaccompanied with some sorrow and regret on both sides. Brother delegates, I am not here as the representative of Bihar but as your President. I feel bound to place before you the state of feelings that prevails in my province with regard to this question. Opinion on this subject is by no means unanimous ; but as far as I have been able to find out, the majority of the educated Biharis wish it. There is a strong Bihari movement started and it is just within the bounds of possibility that your poor but proud sister province of Bihar may shortly declare her intention of taking her affairs in her own hands.

I mention this fact, simply because I wish to impress upon my compatriots from Bengal that when such a day will come, the nationalist of Bihar,—and their number is rapidly increasing every day—will join the movement not with any unfriendly feeling towards Bengal, not with the base motive of securing a few more loaves and fishes in the Government

service, but solely from the higher national standpoint that each Indian race should develop its own thought in the light of its own history and traditions, so that India may present, in the course of time, a 'Congress of Nationalities', each fitted for self-government and federated for common purposes in the United States of India.

I now pass on to another most important subject before you—that of the Swadeshi movement. Out of evil cometh good ; and Partition of Bengal has certainly given tremendous impetus to this national movement. The great glory of this movement is that, together with doing solid national good to the country it scatters the seeds of patriotism wherever it goes—awakening, strengthening, elevating all who come within the sphere of its influence. In its economic aspect, it is the only hope of our dying industries. And if we ever rescue our country from the most deplorable economic condition to which it has been reduced, it shall be through the elevating influence of the Swadeshi movement. This is the one movement on which there is almost absolute unanimity of opinion and the message of Swadeshism has only to be delivered to be readily accepted by all classes of people. Even the natural opponents of Indian Nationalism have not the face to preach against it openly. They call it boycott and

then condemn. I am sorry to have to say that although Bihar has felt the influence of Swadeshism, there is still a wide field for the further spread of the movement. It is for you to take such practical steps as will ensure the rapid program of Swadeshism through all parts of Bengal and Bihar.

It is always cast in our teeth by the foreigners that we cannot expect the Swadeshi succeed till we have created an effective demand by manufacturing articles at a cheaper cost than we are doing now. Gentlemen, when this will be done, the people will on their own accord take to it, without lectures and speeches. But our detractors forget the fact that protective legislation is one of the most effective means of building up a national demand for indigenous goods. This, Gentlemen, is denied to us and it is on that account that we have to call upon the patriotic feelings of the people to purchase indigenous articles, even at a sacrifice in preference to foreign goods.

In Bihar there has been much discussion over what they call the 'Swadeshi and boycott' question. The matter was also taken up at the last Congress, and it seemed there was a strong feeling against the boycott. To me, it seems a distinction without difference, and I confess my incapacity to understand the one without the other. But if my

compatriot in Bihar object to this word, it is my opinion that this conference should not insist on the boycott being taken up. At the same time, if, as a political weapon of passive resistance, Bengal has adopted the boycott of English goods to force the attention of the British public upon the wrongs that have been done her, I am sure this Conference will have no hesitation in expressing its approval of the measure.

One result of the Swadeshi spirit in Bengal has been to inspire the whole nation with the desire of taking the education of its youth in its own hands. People have found out that the present system of education is unsuited to their needs. If we desire to bring up our children with love of country and pride of race in their breasts—if we desire to bring them up in the true knowledge of our history and economics, it is necessary that their education should be based on national lines and should be placed under national control. We hail with pride and pleasure the Technical Institute of Bengal and the National College and Schools that have sprung up in different parts of the country within this short period. We have every reason to be proud and gratified at the year's work done in Bengal and I regret that my province with no lack of wealth has been so far behind. My Bihari compatriots should

take an example from Bengal and make a fair start in the way of national education in the near future.

Another urgent work that the people must take in their hands is the sanitation of the province. Facts, as disclosed by Government report, show that there is fearful mortality in the province. Bihar is decimated by Plague and Bengal by Malaria. The last census discloses an increase in the population of Bengal Presidency to be only 7 per cent which is, by the way, much below the normal, and, below the rate of increase for India generally, the increase in most of the Native States being 19 per cent. In Bihar the population has actually decreased.

If one were to ask what may be the foremost factor of national life, the inevitable answer comes, the physical powers of the nation—its numbers and effective fertility—its health and sanitation—the energy, vigour and absolute strength of individuals. Depreciated vitality does not help in the growth of nationality ; and I appeal to my countrymen to take up the question of sanitation and hygiene in right earnest. And in this direction, I may suggest that much may be done by a band of missionaries going into the interior, educating the people in the ordinary principles of hygiene and taking such necessary measures as the destruction of mosquitoes and rats, the cutting of jungle, the digging of

tanks and wells and starting practical schemes of drainage. There is no lack of work for the building up of the nation, if they are willing to take them up. National education, National sanitation, National courts of arbitration, National defence association, National bureaux, National banks, factories and hundred other things are waiting for you. Gentlemen, these are steps steep but not insurmountable that lead to the summit of Sumertoo where rests the golden star 'Swaraj'. It is far distant yet, but thank God, in sight. Let us then join together, Hindus and Mahomedans, Bengalees and Biharis—let us cast our old rags of racial prejudices in the sacrificial fire of 'Matri Puja'. Let the sacred words of 'Bande Mataram' join together the 'Kalma' and the 'Gayatri' and let us.....to the measured music of this soul-stirring song "march onward and upwards."

Meeting of the Subjects Committee

Despite the announcement made on the 29th March that the Subjects Committee would meet at the club hall, close to the pandal, Babu Bipinchandra Pal with Babu Tarapada Banerjee of Krishnanagar and a handful of delegates from East Bengal assembled at the pandal and insisted upon the meeting being held there. Babu Ambikacharan Majumder went there and asked them to go over

to the place of meeting, but they would not, saying that some one had announced in the morning that the meeting would be held at the pandal. Babu Baikunthanath Sen went over and said, the man who had given information about the meeting being held at the pandal, must have been an irresponsible person. Besides the meeting, being confidential, so much so that the Press was not allowed in, it could not be held at the pandal which had no enclosure around. They would not even then obey the President. At last, Mr. A Choudhury and Babu Baikunthanath Sen succeeded in bringing them over to the hall where the meeting was held. There were only two or three members of the Subjects Committee among the dissenters.

Second Day's Proceedings

The Conference met on the 30th March at 5 instead of 12, as the Subjects Committee meeting continued till 12. More delegates arrived including Mr. A. Rasul, the Hon'ble Babu Jogendranath Mukherjee and many others. Visitors attended in large numbers and great enthusiasm prevailed. Shouts of 'Bande Mataram' greeting the arrivals of notabilities resounded the pandal. Bright-faced volunteers were all activity and kept excellent discipline. A band of military police waited outside

and was instructed not to interfere unless requisitioned by the Conference authorities.

The president entered with his followers from Bhagalpore followed by Messrs A. Rasul, T. Ghoshal, Jatindranath Roy Chowdhury, all dressed in Swadeshi costumes and was cheered enthusiastically. Messrs Banerjee, A. Chowdhury, Kavyavisharad, Ambicacharan Mazumder, J. Chowdhury, entered in a long train and greeted with deafening cheers. The proceedings commenced with the singing of a national song by Babu Hemchandra Sen of the Anti-Circular Society followed by Kavyavisharad's famous song 'Bhaiya deska kai hal' sung by the Sevak Samiti which was largely appreciated and which produced a telling effect upon the gathering.

Resolutions

First Resolution

The first resolution ran thus : "This Conference desires to place on record its deep sympathy with Maharaj Manindrachandra Nandi of Cossimbazar in the terrible bereavement which he has sustained by the death of his eldest son, Maharaj-kumar Mahimchandra Nandi, B. A., cut off in his early manhood."

Proposed from the Chair.

Carried Unanimously.

Second Resolution

The second resolution was as follows :—

“This Conference desires to express its sense of the great loss that this province has sustained by the death of Messrs W. C. Bonnerjea, A. M. Bose, Nalinbihari Sarkar, K. C. Banerjee and Syed Motaher Hossein who rendered conspicuous and remarkable services to this land and whose memory is cherished by the people of this country.”

Proposed from the Chair.

Carried Unanimously.

Third Resolution

The third resolution :—

“This Conference once again records its protest against the Partition of Bengal, declines to accept it as a settled fact and calls upon the country to protest against it.”

Moved by Mr. A. Rasul.

Seconded by Rai Jatindranath Chowdhuri.

Supported by Mr. Phookan and Babu Lalbihari Saha.

Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Rasul, in moving the resolution protesting against the Partition of Bengal, said that he was not in a position to make any speech. He had made many speeches on the subject. He could only say

this that they never accepted and would never accept it as a settled fact. Before he sat down, he would draw the attention of the Conference to one subject with regard to the partition question. Now as the representatives of all the districts were present there, he hoped that they would all listen to him. He came from East Bengal, from the district of Tipperah. Whether ill-founded or well-founded, there was a general impression in Eastern Bengal that only the people of Eastern Bengal had been partitioned and the people of Western Bengal had not been partitioned (cries of never, never). The speaker continuing said, still he was not mistaken, for that was the general impression. The impression was all over Eastern Bengal. Only lately the speaker had gone to preside over the district Conference of Tipperah. There he was told the same thing by many people. Addressing the delegates assembled, the speaker said that they had told the people not to present addresses to the Lieutenant Governor of their province. It was decided that they should not give any address to the Lieutenant-Governor of the New Province. They had complied with the request. But only the other day Sir Andrew Fraser had a royal reception at Khulna (Cries of shame). The speaker drew the attention of the assembly to this. He requested them not to misrepresent him. He feared that he

might be the first man to create disunion between the Eastern and the Western Bengal. They asked the people not to go into the Legislative Councils. He did not say anything about those gentlemen, who had been in the Legislative Councils before the Partition. But only recently, an election was made, and a gentleman, who, the speaker was sorry to say, had come from East Bengal and was elected (Cries of shame and uproar.) The speaker here asked the Conference not to misunderstand him. He urged uniformity of action. The partition had been a political grievance not only as regards East Bengal but as regards West Bengal also, as regards what was called 'United Bengal'. There ought to be a Committee consisting of gentlemen representing both East and West Bengal. They ought to sit together and advise the people as to what to do both in East and West Bengal, regarding going to the Councils and giving addresses. If they decided to give addresses, both East and West Bengal should do the same thing. If they decided to go to the Councils, they should both do so. The speaker declared that he had said this in the best spirit, and he hoped that they would take it in the same spirit.

Fourth Resolution

The resolution was as follows :

"This Conference accords its heartiest support to the Boycott and Swadeshi movement, both as a political weapon and for purposes of industrial and national regeneration."

—Moved by Babu Jaminikanta Sen of Chittagong.

—Seconded by Pandit Gishpati Roy Choudhuri.

—Supported by Messrs Ebrahim Hussain and Lalitmohan Ghoshal and Gopal Pathak.

—Carried Unanimously.

While seconding the fourth resolution Pandit Gishpati Kavyatirtha was going to say that 'Swadeshi' did not mean 'having no connection with foreigners'. As it was impossible to stop paying taxes, it was equally impossible to have no connection with the foreigners. This created a row in the assembly. Some cried 'sit down', others shouted 'stop'. Order was restored with some difficulty.

Speaking in support of the fourth resolution, Mr. Gopal Pathak said :

"A good many years ago when I first became acquainted with the commercial world, the energy and perseverance displayed by Europeans engaged in mercantile pursuits literally dazzled me. Since then I made myself an ardent student of the noble principles of Commerce and the idea became

deep-rooted in my mind that it was by dint of Commerce and sheer industry that a nation could ever aspire to make a lasting stand in the powerful struggle characterising the present-day progress of the civilized world. I think we are now fully convinced that mere cry for the acquisition of political rights will not do. While every nation, worthy of the name, is engaged in its sacred efforts to consolidate the foundation of its country, we are passively going down the ladder. The beautiful Ind of yore was verily the abode of Lakshmi splendid in all her national glory ; but "time's usurping train" has practically stripped her naked. We are living in it as in a house about to collapse and crying for help which we have not the remotest chance of receiving from outside. The hereditary producers of our common wealth are on the extreme verge of utter annihilation obviously through lack of proper nourishment, and yet we look on. We see energy and vital force working wonders around us and even this spectacle is scarcely impressive enough to stimulate us to action.

"Gentlemen, one downward course has already begun and unless we take prompt measures to divert it, the end may be disastrous. Your children are being brought up in an indifferent way. We should as far as possible, remodel the existing system of

education which literally undermines their physique and make our boys robust and practical. But this is a matter I had better leave to others to deal with. What I was going to tell you was this that the condition of our country is deplorable in the extreme but hopes have not abandoned us altogether ; and by our united efforts we may yet arrest the fall. My appeal to you all is to imitate your rulers ; take the examples of such progressive countries as Europe, America and Japan to heart and regulate your course of life accordingly. It is only the vigorous pursuit of commerce and industry that have beautified and enriched these countries and have imparted healthy life to their people. Without commerce and industrial pursuits all their prosperity will entirely vanish and the people will soon find themselves reduced to the same state of poverty as ourselves. For articles of our everyday necessity, be it a needle or an anchor, we are virtually dependent on others, and we leave foreign capitalists to invent and supply them to us. Every article of trade produced by European intellect and capital and thrown on our market, is readily taken to and the little surplus capital left to our people flows out of the country in exchange for these gewgaws. The movement lately inaugurated in Bengal with the avowed object of placing an embargo on important articles which is

more popularly known as the Boycott or Swadesi movement is to my mind a move in the right direction and I have no hesitation in saying that it augurs well of the country. There are, however, people holding pessimistic views who aver that the movement is rather premature and practically means to revolutionize the entire principles of 'demand and supply', and according to them the force of the measure is destined to simmer down in course of time. They further facetiously insinuate that it is absurd to expect people inured to the use of fine Belait cloth, to take to the innovation. I consider these arguments fallacious in the extreme and the progress of time and our own action in connection with the Swadesi propaganda will, I dare say, amply justify this conclusion. We hope to get on and teach the people, as we proceed, the excellent principles of keeping their capital in their own country. Every big thing has its small beginning and it is extremely imprudent to expect a noble edifice built in a day. We must learn to bear with disadvantage and keep to our steady course.

"Gentlemen, we must, however, take to action and that immediately. We must open out industry for the manufacture of useful articles that our country cannot do without. Our primary concern should be to nurture and develop the material

resources of the country. All our energies should gravitate on this main ideal the attainment of which alone could raise our status and give us the privileges we so earnestly desire and—shall I say?—pray for in vain. It is an axiomatic truth that prosperity generates power and it entirely rests with us to exert ourselves in order to acquire this long lost prosperity. The Congress has in a manner united you, the Swadesi feeling is at your back and any good measure, be it big or small, having for its object the welfare of your country, that you seriously take in hand, will decidedly receive cordial support from your people.

“I believe, it is Bengal that gave birth to the Congress element and it is again this province that is initiating India to the sacred meaning-involving words ‘Bande Mataram’. Gentlemen, by your united efforts let Bengal be the nursery of a strong commercial spirit in India. In point of trade and commerce I could suggest to your enterprise in various directions everyone of which will prove successful. Among elaborate schemes involving substantial outlay of capital I may enumerate the following :—

“Maritime steamers, river steamers for Bengal and Assam, banking, mining, agriculture, reclaiming of vast tracts of waste lands, farming iron foundry and industry for the manufacture of cloths, woollen

shawls, cheap cotton blankets made from cotton waste, hosiery, glassware, ironware, enamelled ware, matches, pencils, needles etc.

“Regarding the employment of maritime boats it would be simply superfluous on my part to dilate on the utility of such services. It is a patent fact that an enormous trade in the export line is conducted mainly by Indians between Calcutta and Bombay, round the coast ports including Ceylon; and the steamers employed by European capital for the purpose, practically control the freight and I believe, pay more than enough. If you can possibly make a start with a fleet of, say, three or four steamers with a carrying capacity of 1600 to 2000 tons gross the venture will decidedly meet success. The shippers down the coast are Swadesi in the truest sense of the word and we may safely count upon receiving the warmest support from them in your Swadesi venture. In my estimation which may not be very accurate, a fleet of three steamers would cost you about ten lacs of rupees. In the same way you can take to building river flotilla service and here also you will supply a long-felt want with profit to yourselves.

“A proposal of the question of having a banking concern of your own, everybody interested in trade will tell you, that there is a crying necessity for one

in your country. It must be a thorough national institution, a safe repository for our national wealth. A capital of two crores of rupees raised from the country by the issue of share scripts for rupees ten each, will enable you to start it and every true Swadesi welcome its establishment. We may expect many things from a strong financial institution like an Indian national bank and the capital required for its establishment will not at all be difficult to raise, and you will, I dare say, find trained people in your own country to conduct it with efficiency. For every undertaking in which success is desired, employment of only right people thoroughly trained in the line must be regarded as an indispensable necessity and the selection of a goldsmith for the work of a carpenter will not do.

“If you mean to set to work, gentlemen, the very first thing requisite to ensure your progress is to inaugurate a Commercial Bureau or in other words, a strong national board of trade and commerce, manned by people whose thorough knowledge of business should be unquestionable. It will be the duty of the members constituting the Bureau, to meet at regular intervals say once in a week, and discuss and deal with questions relating to the development of the material resources of the country. In course of time an institution of this kind might assume proportions

and spread its branches all over the country. Gentlemen, an idea of this kind pre-eminently merits your attention and should be acted upon.

“Now, gentlemen, we come to small industry—I mean establishment of factories for the manufacture of articles of our everyday requirement. This is a matter which ought to engross your undivided attention. If you have a bank which you ought to have without delay, and Commercial Bureau to supervise its affairs, the inauguration of industrial works in the country will be an easy matter.

“Factories of the kind we require could be set up with small capital and since they will tend to serve the main purpose of imparting technical education to our boys, the establishment of such factories should deserve our special attention. We have a number of venturesome young men who have left their homes at present residing in foreign countries particularly in England and Japan with the sole object of qualifying themselves in the several branches appertaining to science and industry, and we must regard it as a part of our duty—nay, a national obligation to these young learners to afford them adequate scope for the display of their respective talents when they return. At the moment the country sadly lacks qualified mechanics and in order to ensure the factories a successful career from the

start, it would be expedient to employ foreign labour which can be discarded as our own people gain efficiency in their respective sphere of industry. This is the only method the adoption of which will enable you to rebuild your shattered constitution the effect whereof will be permanent and far-reaching. Your boys instead of wasting the best part of their lives in the pursuit of profitless book knowledge, will soon find a fit channel for the display of their energy and thus prosper ; and the goddess Lukshmi on her lotus stand will once more smile on you. If you make a good beginning and persevere, a day may perchance come when the entire industry of your country including the maritime commerce, may be absolutely in your hands and it is then—then alone that you will be able to assert right as a nation.

“Gentlemen, my appeal to you at the conclusion that you rise to the occasion and remember the excellent and meaningful aphorism which I will quote here.

“Baniye Basati Lakshmih”. I hope and trust that my appeal will not go in vain, but assume some practical form before very long. The grim spectacle—to wit, the famished condition of our people, is before us and it does no longer behove us to look on with an eye of indifference. You have a vast country and your population per square mile is about

a third of the population for the same area in the industrial countries of Europe ; and yet you cannot feed your people properly. This result is directly attributable to the lack of industry in your country which you should not lose time to inaugurate."

Babu Bhupendranath Bose announced after the speech of Babu Gopal Pathak that the scheme of the Bengal National Bank has been completed with the Maharaj of Darbhanga as one of the Directors. He said that in the previous year he had the privilege to announce the starting of the Banga Laksmi Cotton Mill, which was working with profit. He hoped, in the following year at the conference he would be able to announce that the bank was working satisfactorily. Babus Upendranath Sen, Bisnupada Chatterjee and Satishchandra Chatterjee also supported the resolution.

Fifth Resolution

"That in the opinion of this Conference a separation of judicial from the executive functions, which is admittedly necessary in the interest of good government and sound judicial administration, should no longer be deferred."

—Moved by Babu Tarapada Banerjee of Nadia, seconded by Babu Harendralal Roy of Bhagalpur

and supported by Babus Harimohan Maitra and Charuchandra Bose of Bhagalpur.

Sixth Resolution

"That inasmuch as Government has hitherto failed to redeem its pledges with regard to the application of Road Cess for the purpose for which it was intended, and neglected its duties in regard to the improvement of sanitation in rural areas, this Conference insists upon the fulfilment of this duty to organise measures, to provide good drinking water and to provide drainage of the country."

—Moved by Babu Hemendraprasad Ghosh and seconded by Babus Bejoylal Dutta and Haricharan Sastri.

The Conference closed at 7 p. m. and met again on the next day.

Last Day's Proceedings

The Conference met at 8-30 in the morning next day. A special feature was the parading of student parties by processionists composed of members of several Samitis of Calcutta and a number of delegates from the mofussil. They presented a picturesque sight and joined the conference singing national songs and were greeted with shouts of 'Bande Mataram'.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of 'Bande Mataram' by the volunteers who had accompanied the President from Bhagalpore. The whole assembly remained standing all the while. The scene was really grand and sublime.

The delegates from Dinajpur then sang a national song.

Next followed a song by the Bhowanipur Sevak Sampraday in which Pandit Kavyavisharad joined. Next there was a recitation by Babu Prabhaschandra De.

Seventh Resolution

The Seventh Resolution was moved by Babu Surendranath Banerjea. It ran thus :—

"That this Conference expresses its sympathy with the people of Comilla in their present trials and condemns the attitude of the local officials in regard to this matter."

The resolution was seconded by Babu Bisnupada Chatterjee and supported by Dr. Gafur and carried with acclamation.

In moving the Resolution, sympathising with the people of Comilla in their present trials and condemning the attitude of the local officials in regard to this matter, Babu Surendranath Banerjea said that a place of honour had been accorded to this Resolution,

because the disturbances at Comilla occupied a prominent place in the hearts of the people. The Resolution, he felt sure, would command the unstinted sympathy of the Conference, and not only of the Conference but of that wider public outside the Conference which it represented. Mr. Morley, the other day, was pleased to grow sceptical about the unrest in Bengal. The Comilla disturbances ought to open his eyes to the gravity of the situation—a situation which had been created by the partition of Bengal and aggravated by the open, the avowed, the unblushing sympathy of the local officials on behalf of the pro-partition propaganda. These officials had been guilty of a scandalous conduct. They had violated the order of Government, which enjoined strict neutrality on the part of Government officials in regard to political movements, and had thus merited the censure of superior authority and the just condemnation of an indignant public. Our quarrel was not with our Mahomedan fellow-countrymen. (Hear, hear). The fight was not between them and ourselves. We stood upon a common platform of brotherly feeling and cordial friendliness, resolved to work side by side for the political regeneration of our beloved mother-land. Hindus and Mahomedans were living so long in peace and amity at Comilla, when Nawab-Salimulla appeared on the scene (Cries of shame).

The speaker had no desire to restrain the feeling of the assembly ; for he was preparing himself to make an appeal, a strong appeal, as strong as he could make it, to their instincts of sympathy and philanthropy. He had no desire to repress those sentiments which were surging in their breasts. Our people, Hindus and Mahomedans, were living in peace and amity at Comilla and the District Conference, presided over by one whom he was glad to see on the dais, he meant his friend Mr. Rasul and attended by Hindus and Mahomedans alike, by the representative leaders of both the communities, still further cemented the bond of union. It was on this scene of tranquillity and harmony, of peace and good will that the Nawab of Dacca appeared with his pro-partition propaganda, and what followed ? It was a part of systematic procedure of Nawab Salimulla to endeavour to thwart the efforts of the anti-partitionists. When the speaker went to Serajgunge, the Lieutenant of Nawab Salimulla, Nawabali Chaudhuri, went there, to create difficulties for the anti-partitionists there. Therefore, as soon as the speaker heard that Nawab Salimulla was going to Comilla, he placed himself in communication with one of the most respected leaders of the Hindu community. But the Nawab was obdurate—he would not listen to the counsels of prudence and

moderation. He started for Comilla. He was there on the 4th. A procession was formed which marched through the streets of Comilla. The procession came in front of Joogiram Pal's house. An upcountryman, a servant of Joogiram, was sweeping the floor at the time. Curiosity brought him to the scene. He had a broom-stick in his hand. He did not think that the broom-stick would be construed into an act of offence against the majesty of His Mighty Highness the Nawab. He came there with the broom-stick in his hand. It was a red rag to the bull. The mob was thrown into a paroxysm of rage. They gave the man a sound thrashing. Why did not the Nawab then and there check the rising tide of popular fanaticism? The speaker here declared that if he had been there, he should have nipped in the bud the beginning of this riot. He had done so more than once. But the Nawab did not interfere. The Hindus, for a moment, were paralysed, surprised, astounded for there was none to protect them. Where were the Chowkidars, Constables, the Superintendent? Where was the Magistrate? Nowhere on the scene of the occurrence. None came to the rescue. Looting was renewed on the following day. It was Tuesday. The houses of many respected gentlemen, including that of his friend, Babu Upendramohan Chaudhuri, were looted. Not only that. There was that unfortunate brahmin

shop-keeper Ganguli. He was attacked, his head was broken. The poor man went to the thana, but the Sub-Inspector refused to take the 'ejahar'. Accompanied by Mathur Babu and two or three other gentlemen he waited upon the Magistrate at his house. But what was the treatment that he received ? The Magistrate said that they had been preaching 'Swaraj'. Calcutta leaders were coming and preaching 'Swaraj'. The speaker thought that the name of his friend, Babu Bipinchandra Pal, was mentioned in that connection. The Magistrate meant to say that the attack served them right. No help was promised ; no solace was offered. The complaint was dismissed with scorn and provocative remarks as the Reporter of the 'Statesman' said. On Wednesday again, the looting was renewed and towards evening a sad event occurred. While the Nawab and the local officials were enjoying themselves at a tea-party they heard the report of a gun. It was then that the local officials were roused for the first time, to the gravity of the situation. The party broke up in a hurry, and forthwith went the emissaries of the law among a people whose complaints they had hitherto ignored. One matter the speaker ought to have mentioned. It is this, that on Tuesday, the very evening the Ganguli shop-keeper's complaint was quickly ignored, the

Nawab's Private Secretary, Mr. Cursetji was attacked. It was alleged that he abused the Hindus. The speaker asked the Conference to contrast the apathy of the officials in regard to the complaints of the Hindus, with the exuberance of zeal which they displayed when Mr. Cursetji was attacked. They hurried to his house. The doctor was in attendance, the Police were there, the Magistrate was present. Lo and behold, "his dying declaration" was taken. But he did not die—he was and still is alive and kicking. Now it was that the local officials rose to the perception of the gravity of the situation. They called a meeting of the Hindus and the Mahomedans. The Hindus and the Mahomedans met again and exchanged fraternal greetings. The most hearty relations had again been established. This showed that there was no ill-feeling between the two communities before. The whole of these disturbances was due to extraneous influence and they were aggravated by the culpable negligence of the local authorities. When the forces of fanaticism had once been loosened, they could not be restrained. They had heard of the disturbances in several other parts of the Comilla district. Three bazars had since been looted—Mograbazar, Ghatiara and Kanchanpur. Hindus had been beaten by Mahomedan 'goondas'. The police afforded no help, no aid.

The speaker here asked if he could trespass upon the patience of the assembly by reading extracts from the reports of the Special Reporter of the 'Bengalee'.

(Here the speaker read from the report in the 'Bengalee')

The speaker said that the people of Comilla had behaved themselves in the most laudable manner. The darkest cloud had its silver lining. Adversity had a chastening and elevating effect on the mind. The school of persecution was the school of nationalism. Sir Bamfylde Fuller was a friend in disguise. It was a Providential decree that such a man should have been sent to rule over Eastern Province to carry on a crusade against the anti-partitionists with the result that at the present moment the whole of East Bengal was vibrating with the pulsations of a new life. The speaker wished that the spirit might grow and sink in the hearts of our people. They must be the hope, the prayer and the aspiration of every right-minded man. Addressing the gentlemen of Comilla, who were present at the Conference, the speaker said they had borne their sufferings with heroic patience. They had suffered with a courage and patience which had commanded the unstinted admiration of their fellow-countrymen. The Conference was there to express their sympathy for them in their trials and difficulties. Let these not be

a mere empty display of unweaving rhetoric. Let their sympathies take a practical definite shape. They had to defend the accused. They wanted the sinews of war. He appealed to his brother delegates, who were there in their thousands to unloose their purse-strings for the purpose of defending their brothers at Comilla. He asked them to come forward with their subscriptions and show their sympathy in a practical form.

At the conclusion of the appeal, subscriptions began to pour in, which amounted to Rs 2,700.

The speaker thanking the subscribers said that he desired to express his deep gratitude to them for the warm, generous and sympathetic response, which they were pleased to accord to his appeal. He was a Brahmin. There was no occupation holier or more sanctified, more consistent with the dignity of the Brahmin than mendicancy—not political mendicancy—(cheers)—but mendicancy in the service of the mother-land. (Loud applause). In that service he would always be a mendicant at the door and at the feet of all, who could help the interest of his prostrate and down-trodden mother-country. He had a word or two to say with respect to the organization that would be formed. A committee would be formed at Berhampore for the purpose of collecting subscriptions on behalf of the people of Comilla. This

would form the nucleus of a national 'Defence Fund'. Their vision enlarged as the horizon receded from their view. The success of this appeal had encouraged to form the idea of a 'General Defence Fund'. To Berhampore belonged the credit of being the birthplace of this idea. Berhampore is a great patriotic centre. When the idea was first conceived of holding the Provincial Conference in the moffasal the first Conference of the kind was held at Berhampore in 1895 presided by Mr. A. M. Bose. In 1903, when there was a break in the sittings of the Conference, his friend Babu Baikunthanath Sen with that generosity, deep earnest patriotism that characterised him, invited the Conference to Berhampore. Speaking again about the funds, the speaker said that there would be a Committee at Calcutta. The funds would be sent for relieving their friends in distress at Comilla. Mr. A. Rasul would be the Treasurer, 14, Royd Street, Calcutta. The Berhampore public should pay their subscription to Babu Baikunthanath Sen.

Mr. A. Rasul's Speech

Mr. A. Rasul, in thanking the assembly for subscriptions they made towards the relief of the people of Comilla, said that as a humble and poor

inhabitant of Comilla he could not tell them how he felt gratified about the debt, a heavy debt of gratitude, that the people of Comilla owed to their fellow-countrymen for the generosity that they had shown to them. He therefore, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the inhabitants of the district of Tipperah, thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the help, that they had given and their respected leader had told them that this fund which they had started, was the nucleus of the national fund for the defence of the people. The speaker on behalf of the Comilla public thanked the assembly again for the generous help, that they had come forward to give them. With regard to this fund, he needed not tell them that the fund that had been started, would be spent on behalf of the Comilla people. He, therefore, thanked them again for the very kind response that they had made to the proposal made by their leader Babu Surendranath Banerjee.

Eighth Resolution

The next resolution ran as follows :—

“That this Conference protests against the partition of Midnapur ignoring the protests of the people”.

It was seconded by Tarapada Babu of Krishnanagar and carried with acclamation.

Ninth Resolution

Babu Saradacharan Mazumder proposed the next resolution :—

“That considering the heavy expenses that suitors have to incur to obtain justice in British Courts of law and the increasing poverty of the people, this Conference is of opinion that the time has come to establish arbitration courts throughout Bengal and to revive the old Panchayet system throughout Bengal”.

Babu Jatindramohan Sen of Dinajpur seconded it and Babu Lalmohan Mukherjee of Howrah supported it and it was carried unanimously.

Tenth Resolution

Babu Bipinchandra Pal moved the following resolution : •

“That in the opinion of this Conference, the time has arrived for the people in this country to earnestly take up the question of national education on national lines and under national control so as to promote the national well-being”.

It was seconded by Babu Yatindranath Roychowdhury and supported by Babu Nareschandra Sen Gupta and carried with acclamation. In supporting the resolution on national education, Babu Nareschandra Sen Gupta said :

Mr. President, brother delegates and gentlemen, there is great need to emphasise in the resolution that the country should earnestly take up the question of National Education. For a matter of fact we are not showing as much zeal in taking it up as we ought to. It is perhaps because we have not yet quite realised that the question of national education is, even without its political associations and viewed from the educational point of view only, a matter of supreme importance. It is necessary, nay, it is essential for our self-interest as a people and for the future interests of our children as men—even apart from the value that attaches to it from a political and national point of view.

Gentlemen, I am not one of those, who take a delight in abusing the Calcutta University for the mere pleasure of it. I am not one who is fond of reviling the system of education to which we owe all this development in our national consciousness. But at the same time without being ungrateful for all that we have received from it and without being lost to a sense of the merits of our educational system, I may be permitted to point out one great flaw which runs through the entire system—I mean the prevailing tone of unmanliness in average graduate and undergraduate of our University. Gentlemen, the graduate or undergraduate of the Calcutta

University, when he is turned out, is utterly helpless and does not know what he is to do if not let his life run by one of the appointed groves by joining service or the bar or one or two other professions. He lacks the grit and the moral backbone which is necessary in order to strike out new paths of life.

Now, this could not possibly go on for ever. New openings have to be found for the life of our young men, they have to be trained in new ideals of life. A system of education, therefore has to be found which will furnish the students not only with the moral and intellectual calibre but also the equipage of thoughts, ideas and feelings that is necessary for the striking out of new paths of life. He has to be given a training so that, no matter at what stage of his education he leaves his college, he will be able to stand on his own legs and to find out his way in the world ; no matter in what sphere of life he is placed, for there must be diversity in this according to the amount of education that he has received ; no matter in what humble path of life he is destined to move, in that sphere at any rate he ought to be able to bear himself like a man and not an imbecile.

Gentlemen, this is precisely what the National Council of Education proposes to do. The provision for Technical Education in all its highest forms is

bound to have a profound influence on our political national destinies by opening out possibilities of life and of industrial development of which none but such as have been in it can have any idea. The provision of manual training along with general education in the lower stages before the bifurcation of studies begins will serve to cure the student turned out by it, no matter from what class of the habitual tendency to look up to others for his livelihood and enable him to earn his own living and hold up his head as a man. On the other hand, the higher studies both in the general and technical education by providing amply for specialisation opens out a glorious vista of possibilities of research and investigation which will be fruitful of great consequences in the history of the intellectual as well as the economic progress of the nation.

The National Council of Education, gentlemen, has been doing its work with great zeal and great good will. It is thus deserving of your best sympathy and assistance.

Gentlemen, we have been prodigal in respect of time before this and are now pinched for it. I must therefore conclude here with only one word more. The National Council of Education is a prosperous institution ; it has been doing excellent work. I am told that it has about a dozen schools affiliated to it

and gives grants-in-aid to the extent of 12,000 rupees. We hope and trust it will make further and further progress in its beneficent work.

Eleventh Resolution

Babu Durgadas Lahiri moved the following Resolution—

“That with a view to conserve the food supply of the country this Conference recommends the organization of co-operative grain banks.”

It was seconded by Pandit Kavyavisharad and supported by Moulvi Dader Bux and carried unanimously.

Provincial Congress Committee

The President put the following resolutions from the chair—

“That in accordance with the resolution passed at the last sitting of the Indian National Congress, this Conference resolves to organise a Provincial Congress Committee on the following lines :—

(1) The Provincial Congress Committee shall consist of 50 members from the town of Calcutta and as many members from each district as there are sub-divisions, besides two members from each headquarters town of a District (2) That the members of the Provincial Congress Committee

shall be nominated by the District Association, Calcutta being regarded as a district.

(3) that there shall be District Association in each district and this Conference recommends their organisation on the following lines :—

(a) That there should be a district association of representatives of subdivisions and other local centres such as may be determined upon in each district.

(b) That they should be organised upon a representative basis on the principle of self-taxation.

(c) That the term of office of the members of the Congress Committee shall be for one year, that is until the next session of the Bengal Provincial Conference. That the District Association shall collect all important information and communicate to the Provincial Congress Committee their views and suggestions regarding matters affecting the political and economical condition of the different districts as also their wants and grievances and organise resources for the people.

(d) That the Provincial Congress Committee may appoint an Executive Committee and Sub-Committee, if necessary, to carry on their work and shall be at liberty to frame rules for the election of members and conducting other business ; these

rules shall be on the lines followed by the National Congress.

(e) That each District Committee shall realise funds for carrying on its work.

(f) That the minimum age-limit of members of the Provincial Congress Committee and Bengal Provincial Conference shall be 21 years and the members shall be natives of India and be able to read and write.

(g) That each Provincial Congress Committee and the Standing Committee for the Bengal Provincial Conference shall have General Secretaries and that Mr. A. Chaudhuri and Ray Yatindranath Chaudhuri be appointed General Secretaries for this year.

(h) That the above two Secretaries be instructed to carry on the business of the aforesaid resolutions.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried by a large majority.

While Mr. Banerjea addressed and appealed to the assembly for funds to relieve the people of Comilla, subscriptions began to pour in, which amounted to Rs 2, 699 of which Rs 221 was paid in cash.

A coolie came forward and paid subscription out of his hard-earned money. Mr. Banerjea embraced him.

The delegation fee for all delegates from other districts was fixed at rupees two, while that for local delegates was fixed at rupees five.

Next Conference at Pabna

Mr. Banerjee declared that Pabna had invited the next Conference.

Vote of Thanks

Baikuntha Babu offered a vote of thanks to the President, the delegates and the volunteers which was carried with acclamation.

Addressing the President and his brother delegates Babu Baikunthanath Sen said that he knew that he stood to address the meeting at a very late hour. But he claimed a little indulgence and hoped that they would permit him to discharge a pleasant duty. When he had invited this Conference on the 9th March he never expected that there would be such a big gathering of delegates from different parts of the Province, by which he meant both East and West. The gathering was beyond his expectation. He felt thankful to them for the sacrifice which they had undoubtedly made for the troubles they had taken (cries of no) and undoubtedly for the inconvenience and want of comfort which they had been put to (cries of no). He hoped that they

would excuse them for their short-comings and defects in their arrangements. (No, no.) What was most gratifying to him was the disappointment, which they had caused to their critics, who expected a collapse, and imagined that partition existed amongst them and we would fight with each other until a collapse was brought about. He refused to admit that there was any party feeling amongst them. There might be slight differences in practical methods of carrying out their programmes. But they all agreed as regards the principle as to the goal they aimed at. It was, indeed, very gratifying to him for which he offered his most sincere thanks to the party which had been called the "Extremists" for having carried out in most harmonious and friendly way to the programme of the Conference, undoubtedly from a deep conviction of their sense of duty. (Hear hear.) He thanked them for having enabled the President to carry out the proceedings of the Conference in a harmonious way. Turning to the President the speaker asked him to allow him to say a few words with regard to him. He (speaker) knew that he ran a risk when he invited the President simply on account of his age. (Laughter). He claimed the privilege of saying so—he was partial with regard to old men, for he himself was an old man. About

youngsters, he sometimes had some misgivings. But he was more than delighted to find as to how the proceedings had been carried out. The Presidential speech was one which would do honour to any one in the rank, to those who presided in a national assembly like this. (Loud Cheers). This Presidential speech was one, which might have been the Presidential speech at the Indian National Congress. (Hear hear). This was, no doubt, a National Congress in miniature. Our President's address had thrown out ideas and made suggestions and hints, which, if carried out would enable the workers to carry on their operation successfully. What had struck the speaker most was that the President did not even pay any respect for age, when his seniors were out of order. The speaker was proud of it. There was a prominent idea which influenced him, when he accepted certain suggestions from his Bhagalpur friends ; it was this that by the election they might cement the tie of friendship between Behari fellow subjects and the people of Bengal. He was glad to be able to say that the way in which the President had conducted the proceedings had amply fulfilled his expectations. He knew what position Mr. Dipnarayan Singh held in Behar. He was a worthy son of a worthy father. (Cheers). Trained in a first class college, holding a

high position, spending his money for the maintenance of the college and boys, who attended it, having a hostel there, he recommended universal love and esteem in the province of Behar. Now his co-operation with us would raise him in the estimation of the people of Bengal. The speaker was sure this would strengthen the tie of friendship between Beharis and Bengalees. He thanked the President on behalf of the Reception Committee and also he might say on behalf of his brother delegates (cheers) for the sacrifice he had made and for the trouble he had taken and for the ability with which he discharged his duties. He asked the President to excuse them for the inconvenience he had been put to. The speaker hoped that he would take his wishes for their action. They ought to be thankful to the local authorities and the police for they had done nothing to disturb their proceedings. He felt very grateful to and did thank the executive authorities. He also, last of all, though not the least, thanked the volunteers (cheers). He did not deserve any thanks. As the General Secretary of the Reception Committee, the speaker deemed it duty to thank the volunteers. By their services, they had done them immense good, without whose help, the Conference could not have been successful. He did not wish to inflict anything like a speech.

He hoped that they would excuse him for the infliction.

Conclusion

After a suitable reply by the President the Conference broke up at half-past twelve.

Some Relevant Information about the Conference

1

Notice Issued

Previously Babu Baikunthanath Sen, General Secretary to the Reception Committee of the Bengal Provincial Conference of 1907, had issued the following circular :—

Berhampur, the 9th March 1907.

Dear Sir,

The Bengal Provincial Conference could not be held last year at Barisal and so no announcement could then be made where next Conference would be held. The Mursidabad District is going to hold the Conference at Berhampur on the 29th, 30th and 31st March during the Easter holidays. Without your active co-operation, we can hardly expect success. I have therefore to request you earnestly to elect your delegates in time and to come and join in the deliberations of the Conference.

I shall feel obliged if you will kindly let me know how many delegates I shall expect from your District and by which route and when you will reach Berhampur, so that necessary arrangements might be made for looking after your convenience.

Kindly ask the delegates to bring the beddings with them.

Yours truly,
 Baikuntnath Sen
 General Secretary,
 Reception Committee.

2

A Letter to the Editor of the Bengalee

Sir,

The people of Barisal were surprised to learn from a letter addressed to Babu Aswinikumar Dutt by Babu Baikunthanath Sen that the Provincial Conference would be held this year at Berhampur. The high-handed acts of Sir B. Fuller's Government frustrated the desire of our people last year to properly serve the representatives of the different districts of Bengal, and to bring the Conference to a successful termination. They were therefore very glad to receive repeated assurances from Babu Surendranath Banerjee that the Conference would be completed this year at Barisal. They were even

given to understand that Rs 9000 would be advanced for the purpose. You can, therefore, easily understand their disappointment to hear the news. Was it just, Mr. Editor, not to consult the leaders of Barisal and other districts before deciding that the Conference would be held elsewhere? May not the different districts claim that their voice should be heard before such important questions are decided. No doubt Babu Aswinikumar Dutt expressed his opinion that it would be better if Behar would invite the Conference. But when Behar refused our overtures the leaders were wrong in deciding the matter in such hot haste without asking the opinion of the different districts. Their action is so inexplicable that even some sober men are attributing motives to them. However that may be, there is no doubt that grave irregularities have been committed in the matter, and that the decision has been very widely disapproved. All this is due to a wrong impression in the minds of our leaders that people take as little interest in political matters now as they used to do before. But the times have changed and our leaders would do well to take note of this fact and be a little more democratic in their action. It is but fair that our leaders should pay some respect to the opinion of the people, who are always so ready to respect and follow them. It is also the duty of those

who have been dissatisfied in the matter to make it a point to go to the Conference in numbers and there demand, in no uncertain voice, a constitution for the Conference, which will prevent such irregularities in the future.

Barisal, Mar. 17.

An Observer

3

An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 22. 3. 1907

We are informed by the General Secretary to the Provincial Conference which is to meet at Berhampur next week, that Mr. Dip Narayan Singh, the distinguished patriot of Bhagalpur, has been elected to the office of President of the Conference. Mr. Dip Narayan's presence in the chair will symbolize the union of the Bengalees and Beharees in this matter and we are sure that he will most worthily fill the chair.

4

From a Bhagalpur Correspondent

On the 20th March a meeting was held in the Bar Library. Mr. Deep Narayan Singh, Zemindar, and Bar-at-Law, presided.

Babu Chandra Sekhar announced that it is a great honour shown to Bhagalpur that our esteemed townsman Mr. Deepnarain Singh, Bar-at-Law,

has been elected President of the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur. We expect that there will be a strong number of delegates from Bihar this time.

Mr Singh delivered a very touching and effective speech, in the course of which he said that the ensuing Conference would be one of the most important ever held inasmuch as it is the first that will meet after the birth of the new spirit of nationality. In all his actions he would be guided by one desire, viz., to do his duty towards his country and he requested his friends to help him in his arduous work. He exhorted the Biharis and the Bengalees, Hindus and Musulmans, to join together in their duty towards their common country. He said that he would think himself amply repaid if he succeeded in uniting the Bengalees and Biharis.

5

From a Faridpur Correspondent

An enthusiastic public meeting was held on the afternoon of the 25th March, at Chauk Bazar, Babu Jogeschandra Chakravarty, pleader, presiding. A Brahmo missionary Babu Kashichandra Ghosal from Calcutta, eloquently addressed the meeting. Babu Kallyprosanno Sarker, Moulvi Asimudda

Khan and Satishchandra Mojumdar also spoke. The President announced that the local volunteers would be stationed at Goalundo Ghat for service to the delegates to the Berhampore Conference.

6

Notice to Delegates

Delegates intending to come to Berhampur via Ranaghat—Mursidabad Branch of the E. B. S. Ry, should be booked to "Berhampur Court" Station.

7

Notice to Delegates

Delegates to the Provincial Conference starting on Thursday night and wishing to provide themselves with reserved accommodation will please communicate with the undersigned at once. They should state the class in which they wish to travel.

T. P. Mitra
Manager.

8

*"Notice to Members of Students' Union
and Young Men's"*

The delegates who are willing to go to the Provincial Conference from this Union are requested to send in their names to the undersigned at once, and state the class in which they wish to travel.

Santoshkumar Basu
Care of Manager, The Bengalee

9

*Babu Pareschandra Das Gupta, of
82/1, Harrison Road, Writes on 27. 3 1907:—*

It is expected that a large number of delegates will attend the Provincial Conference at Berhampur from East Bengal and I beg leave to drop these few lines, noting some details of their journey and hope they will take a note of them. The delegates coming by Down Chandpur Mail on the 28th instant will reach Ranaghat (changing station) at 17-33 (standard time) and here they will have to wait till the Ranaghat-Mursidabad train arrives from Sealdah, which steams in at 1-6 a. m. As all the Calcutta delegates will also go by the same train, I am afraid the waiters at Ranaghat will hardly find sufficient room for their accommodation. I think it would do well if the delegates of the different districts, wired to the station master at Ranaghat or Sealdah through their local station authorities or independently, as the case may be, for reserved accommodation. In that case, they will find cars specially labelled for them at Ranaghat. They will reach Berhampur at 5-45 in the following morning. The Dacca and Mymensing delegates will not be able to attend the first sitting of the Conference if they leave Narain-gange by the express steamer on the 28th instant

as the corresponding Down Dacca Mail reaches Ranaghat two hours later after the departure of the Mursidabad train. The delegates travelling by the Down Dacca Mail will have to wait at Ranaghat for some eight hours, that is till 9 a. m. of the following morning and they will reach Berhampur at 2-7 p. m. The Dacca and Mymensing delegates may also come *via* Chandpur if it suits their convenience. The delegates travelling by Down Darjeeling Mail from the Northern districts will reach Ranaghat at 8-40 and they will find a corresponding train without much waiting to carry them to their destination at 2-7 p.m. If the first sitting of the conference takes place at 4 p.m., then the Dacca, Mymensing and Barisal delegates can attend the same after leaving their respective stations on the 28th instant.

10

Notice to Delegates proceeding from Calcutta

A special train will leave Sealdah station with delegates to the Bengal provincial conference. Delegates desiring to be passengers of the train are requested to communicate with the undersigned within 4 p. m. Wednesday next. The day and hour of the departure of the train will be notified tomorrow, the 26th March.

T. P. Mitra,
Manager.

11

Notice on 28. 3. 07.

Gentlemen, who have written for reserved accommodations, are requested to be present at the Railway station before 9 p.m. (standard time) and not to buy their tickets individually.

12

Election of Delegates

From Anti-Circular Society

At a committee meeting of the Anti-Circular Society the following gentlemen have been elected delegates to the Berhampore provincial conference :—

Babus Surendranath Banerjee, Krishnakumar Mittra, Lalitmohon Das, Sachindraprasad Basu, Sukumar Mittra, Surendrakumer Chakravarty, Satyakumar Mittra, Sudhirschandra Benerjee, Lal-behari Saha, Hemchandra Sen ; Pandits Kaliprasanna Kavyabisarad, Gispati Kavyatirtha ; Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Bose, Hon'ble J. Choudhury ; Messrs A. Choudhury, J. N. Roy, A. C. Benerjee, B. M. Chatterjee, Mahamed Abdul Hossain, Din Mahomed, Dedar Bus, Ebrahim Hossain, Abdul Hossain, Abdul Gafar.

From Arbalia

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the "Arbalia Jnan Vikashini Sabha" held on Friday, the 22nd March, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the forthcoming Provincial Conference to be held in Berhampur.

Babus Surendrachandra Bose, B. L., Zamindar ; Bejoylal Dutta, Zamindar ; Kritantakumar Bose, M. A., B. L., Vakil, High Court and Babu Debendrachandra Mullick, B. L., Vakil, High Court.

From Archana Samity

At a meeting of the Samity held on the 23rd March, Babus Keshabchandra Gupta, M. A., B. L., and Durgacharan Banerjee, M. A., B. L. were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference.

From Arya Adarsa Samity

Babus Kristodas Mullick, B. A., and Panchanan Neogi, P. R. S. were elected delegates from the "Arya Adarsa Samiti" to the coming Berhampur Conference.

From Asha Samiti

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Asha Samiti, Babus Surendranath Banerjee, Krishnakumar Mitra, Sachindraprasad Basu, Purna

chandra Gupta (Editor 'Navayuga'), Dr Jogendra-nath Chatterjee have been elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From Bagbazar Sakti Samiti

The following delegates have been elected by the 'Bagbazar Sakti Samiti' to the Berhampore Provincial Conference :

Babu Motilal Ghosh, Nagendranath Mitra, Akhilchandra Chatterjee, Aroonchandra Chatterjee, Amarnath Bhattacharjee, P. N. Chatterjee, Satya-charan Shastri, Lalitmohon Ghosal.

From Bagerhat

At a meeting of the People's Association Babus Debibar Chatterjee, Srischandra Mukherjee, Beharilal Roy, Syamaprasanna Sarker, Raicharan Bose, Bidhubhusan Ghosh, Girischandra Dass, Abanimohon Roychowdhury, Satischandra Chakravarty, Girish chandra Sen and Panchanan Dass have been elected delegates to the Berhampore Conference.

From Bally Swadesi Samiti

At a meeting of the 'Bally Swadeshi Samiti' held on the 24th March, the under-mentioned gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

1. Babu Surendranath Banerjee 2. Pundit Kaliprasanna Kavyabisarad (Patron and Vice-Patron respectively of the Samiti) 3. Babu Mathuramohon Ganguly 4. Babu Manikohandra Chakravarty.

From Bangabandhu Office

At a meeting held in the hall of the Bangabandhu office, presided over by Babu Bhoobanmohon Ghosh, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference :—

(1) Babus Barendralal Mukherjee (2) Mohitkumar Mukherjee (3) Bhoobanmohon Ghosh (4) Arjunchandra Bose (5) Jatindralal Mukherjee (6) Saratchandra Ghosh (7) Pandit Chandicharan Vyakaranantirtha.

From Baranagar (Mursidabad)

In an enthusiastic gathering people of Baranagar and surrounding places elected their delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur. The meeting was held at the Natmandir of Matbati. Babu Bankimchandra Roy, a Bengali and English author, was in the chair. Every credit is due to Babu Satyasankar Tagore, an enthusiastic and patriotic young landlord of Matbati. Great enthusiasm prevailed.

Babus Nilmoni Bhattacharya, Brindaban

Bhattacharya, Managing Agent, Dighapatiaraj, Gurucharan Bhowmick, Jadabchandra Missra, Managing Agent, Nattore Raj, at Baranagar were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference.

From Barisal

Ten delegates were elected to the Provincial Conference with instructions to have an eye on the framing of a constitution of the Provincial Conference.

From Calcutta (Beadon Square Meeting)

At a public meeting under the presidency of Dr Sundarimohon Das held at the Beadon Square, Calcutta, on Sunday the 24th instant at 5-30 p. m. the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the forthcoming Bengal Provincial Conference to be held at Berhampur :—

Babus Bipinchandra Pal, Brahmobandhab Upadhyay, Manoranjan Guha Thakurta, Lalitmohan Ghosal, Prankrishna Pyne, Prabhaschandra Deb, Aswinikumar Banerjee, Satindranath Roychowdhury, Basudeb Bhattacharjee, Anukulchandra Bose, Herambanath Chatterjee, (elected by 'Adi Brati Samiti) Jotindranath Batabyal, Amarendramohan Bose, Kanayalal Saha, Prafullakumar Mukherjee,

Sasimohan Biswas, Suryakumar Banerjee, Bipinbehary Banerjee, Bipinbehari Gupta, Satishchandra Gupta, Haribhusan Bhattacharjee, Amulyakumar Banerjee, Anathnath Seal, Durgananda Gangooli, Narendranath Dey, Kaminimohon Gangooli, Nikunjabehary Mukerjee, Hiralal Chatterjee, Surendranath Kar, Kanailal Sen, Makhanlal Saha, Surendranath Roy, Jadunath Dutta, Jaminikumar Guha, Jagatchandra Pal, Rameshchandra Bhattacharjee, Mohinimohon Bhattacharjee, Janakinath Das, Jadunath Roy, Profullachandra Ghosh, Krishnakumar Roy, Gangacharan Gupta, Saratkumar Roy, Chandrabhusan Sen, Promothanath Chatterjee, Ganopoty Roy, Sureshchandra Dutt, Saradaranjan Sen, Lalitmohon Gupta, Benodeswar Dasgupta, Nripendranath Roychowdhury, Amulyakumar Banerjee, Raghubirprasad, Bejoykumar Roy, Suryakanta Somanta, Bisnuchandra Biswas, Maniklal Boral, Charuchandra Roy, Sureshchandra Biswas, Kamaniyakumar Singha, Atulchandra Lahiri, Annadacharan Guha, Sasthicharan Ghosh, Rasiklal Das, Jyotishchandra Chatterjee, Susantanath Roy, Debendranath Roy, Apurbachandra Bhattacharjee, Tarakeswar Roy, Keshabchandra Gupta, Kshitishchandra Dasgupta, Sudhanyakumar Basu, Prasannakumar Bose, Promothokumar Bose, Rohinikanta Basu, Purnachandra Nag, Srishchandra Das,

Satishchandra Mitra, Abinashchandra Basu, Profullakumar Basu, Tarabhusan Pal, Rajendrakumar Mitra, Jotindramohon Roychowdhury, Adhar-chandra Banerjee, Harihar Mazumdar.

From Bhagalpur

On the 20th March, a meeting was held in the Bar Library Hall at 2-30 p. m. to elect delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampore. Mr. Deepnarain Singh, Bar-at-law, who, we are glad to find, has been elected President of the Conference, presided on the occasion. The following delegates were then elected :—

Mr. Deepnarain Singh, Babu Upendranath Bagchi, M. A., B. L., Chandrasekhar Sarkar, M. A., B. L., Suktata Churu Mitter (Pleader), Nabin-chandra Ganguly, B. L., Upendra Mukherjee, B. L., Harendralal Roy, B. L., Harendrakrishna Bagchi, B. L., Basantalal Saha (Zeminder and Merchant), Chandrakishore Chowdhury, B. L., Lalitmohon Roy, M. A., B. L., Surendranath Bose, M. A., B. L., Matilal Misser (Pleader), Lalitmohon Ghosh, B. L., Jugannath Sahai, B. L., Debiprasad (Pleader), Woogramohan Thakur (Zemindar), Rammohon Thakur (Zemindar), Debiprasad Marowari, (Zemindar, Merchant and Banker), Moulvi Nasirul Huq, B. L., Babus Ranjit Singh, B. L.,

Jadunath Biswas (Mukhtears), Kantibhusan Ghosh, M. A., B. L., Manmathanath Banerjee, B. L., Akshoykumar Chatterjee, B. L., Satischandra Bose, B. L., Haripada Sarkar, L. M. S., Manindranath Ganguly (Pleader), Sarodaprasad Mukherjee, B. L., Sarodamohon Bhattacherjee, M. A., Badrinath Upadhyay (Zemindar), Surendranath Chatterjee, B.L., Chhediprasad Chowdhuri, B. L., Anantprasad Mandal (Zemindar), Charuchandra Bose, M. A., B. L.

From Bhowanipur (Calcutta)

At a public meeting under the Presidency of Dr. Benimadhab Bose, held at Harrish Park, Bhowanipur, on Saturday the 23rd March at 5-30 p. m., the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampore :—

Hemendranath Guha Roy, Benodbehari Ghosh, Sailendranath Dutta, Harendranath Guha Roy, Surendranath Bhattacharjee, Satishchandra Roy Chowdhury, Krishnachandra Ghosh, Mohendranarayan Taphadar, Jotishchandra Ghosh, Lalit-mohon Ghosal, Aswinikumar Dey, Troilokyanath Ghosh, Akshoykumar Roy, Rajanikanta Baksi, Bonomali Chatterjee, Baidyanath Banerjee, Paresh-nath Roy Chowdhury, B. L., Monoranjan Banerjee,

Jitendranath Roy, Satishchandra Bose, Promotho-
nath Bose, Saratchandra Mitra. Baidyanath Ghosh.

From Bhowanipur Sahitya Samiti (Calcutta)

At a general meeting of the Sahitya Samiti, the following members have been elected delegates at Berhampur.

Babu Sureshchandra Samajpati (President)
Ramratan Chatterjee, B. L. (Vice-President),
Sowrindramohon Mukherjee, B. A., Upendranath
Ganguly, B. A., Syamratan Chatterjee, Sarojnath
Ghosh, Manindranath Ghosh, Bireswar
Goswami, Debendranath Ganguly, Kaminikumar
Chatterjee, B. A., Jyotishchandra Ghosh, Promotho
nath Sen, B. A. (Secretary).

From Bogra

The Bogra Friend's Union Association elected the following gentlemen as delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Pyarisankar Dasgupta (President), Barada
Ch. Talukdar, B. L., Rajendranath Khushnabis,
B. L., Baidynath Sanyal, B. L., Lalitchandra Dutta,
B. L., Saradanath Khan, B. L., Bhawanicharan
Majumder, Pleader, Debendranath Sarkar, Zeminder,
Mazibar Rahaman Chowdhury, B. L., Munshi
Shonaulla Miah, Benimadhab Chaki, B. L., Satish

Ch. Sen, B. L., Kalinath Maitra, Haragopal Kundu, (Shupur), Mohinimohon Maitra and Basantakumar Chakravarty.

From Brahmanbaria

Babus Benodbehari Bhattacharjee, Jogeshchandra Datta, Jogeshchandra Sen, Susilchandra Chowdhury, Asutosh Bardhan, have been elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur by the local Bar Association.

From Brahmanbaria

Babu Krishnakumar Bhattacharjee and Sarodakanta Das were appointed delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From Brati Samiti (Calcutta)

At a meeting held under the auspices of the Brati Samiti, Calcutta, Babus Prabhatchandra Sen Kaviraj, Anandanath Roy, Jatindranath Sen, Govindachandra Gautam and Pandit Satyendranath Sen M. A., were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From British Indian Association (Calcutta)

At their meeting held on the 21st March, the Committee of the British Indian Association elected

Mr. J. Ghosal, Rai Sreenath Pal Bahadur, Rai Yatindranath Choudhuri and Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Bose as delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference.

From Chittagong Association

At a meeting of the Chittagong Association on the 22nd March, the following delegates were elected to the Provincial Conference.

Babus Jatramohon Sen, Jaminikanta Sen, Benimadhab Das, Mahimchandra Das, Norendra kumar Das, Jatindranath Roy, Harischandra Dutta, Pulinchandra Das, Kazim Ali, Abdul Satter, Asad Ali, Bipinchandra Gupta, Kedarnath Dasgupta, Samacharan Sarkar, Makbul Hossein, Ramesh Purohit, Keshabchandra Bhattacharja, Tripura Guha, Kaminikanta Sen, Runjanlal Sen, Kshitishchandra Sen, Jagabandhu Chowdhury, Rebatiraman Dutta, Hariranjana Mozumdar, Atulchandra Dutta, Saradacharan Pal, Jogendrachandra Ghosh.

From Chittagong Union

At a meeting of the 'Chittagong Union' the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Conference at Berhampur :

Babu Dharendra Lal Khastgir, Vakil, High Court, President of the union ; Kalisankar Chakravarty,

Editor, the 'Jyoti', Tripuracharan Chowdhury, Rajanikanta De, B. L., Kshitishchandra Sen, M. A., Bejoychandra Banerjee, B. A., Pareshchandra Sen, Rebatiraman Dutta, Hariranjana Mojumder, Priodaranjan Roy, Ranjanlal Sen, Anukulchandra Ganguly.

From Chuadanga

At a meeting held at Chuadanga the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

Babu Srishchandra Roy, Surendranath Choudhury, Jogendranath Sinha, Muktalal Sanyal, Abinashchandra Mukherjee, Kalipada Bagchi, Munshis Abder Rahaman Mallick, Monsurali Mullick, Subderali Joarder, Babus Jotindramohon Sinha, Jogendranath Sinha and Pundit Bidhubhusan Goswami.

From Comilla

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Mathuramohon Deb, Upendramohon Mitter, Akhilchandra Dutta, Bhudhar Das, Anangamohon Ghosh, Basantakumar Mazumder, Jamini-kumar Sen, Satyendrachandra Biswas, Kaminikumar Dutta, Bidhubhusan Dutta, Sachindrakumar Roy, Rajoninath Nundy, Gurudoyal Sinha, Sarat

kumar Mazumder, Abdul Rajak, Galamambria, Surendrachandra Chakraburty, Dr. Jogendrachandra Mozumder, Purnachandra Bhattacharjee, B. A., Nogendra Nath, Apurba Chanda, Obinashchandra, Kaminikumar, Jaminikumar, Sengupta Kamakhya-charan, Mohendrachandra and Sarker Anukul ch.

From Contai

At a public meeting held at Contai Pratt Bar Association Room on the 25th March, Babu Surendranath Bandyopadhyaya, B. L. was elected delegate to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From Cossipore

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Berhampur Conference by Cossipur Sinthee Improvement Society :—

Babus Narendranath Sen, Surendranath Banerjee, Motilal Ghosh, Rai Jatindranath Chowdhury, the Hon'ble Jogendranath Mukherjee and Babu Lalit-mohon Ghosh.

From Dinajpur

Kumar Saradindunarayan Roy, M. A. ; Babus Surendrakumar Sen, Sudhirschandra Sen, Jotindra-mohon Sen, pleaders ; Tarakchandra Dutta Gupta,

Headmaster ; and Hiralal Sen, teacher, National Institution, were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference.

From Faridpur

At a public meeting held at Faridpur over 25 delegates were elected to the Berhampur Conference.

Resolutions were adopted expressing indignation at the disturbances reported from Comilla and earnestly hoping that the authorities would take prompt measures to restore peace and order there.

From Friday Club

At a general meeting of the Friday Club the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference.

Babus Aghornath Ghosh, Anathratan Bose, C. N. Chowdhury, Saratchandra Mitter, H. L. Sen, Prabodhchandra Ghosh, B. L., Chintamani Sarkar, B. L., and Satischandra Dutta B. L.

From Ghola

At a meeting held at Ghola under the auspices of the Ghola National Training Association the under-mentioned gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference held at Berhampur :—

Babus S. K. Banerjee, S. N. Banerjee, S. C. Chatterjee, J. C. Chatterjee.

From Gouripur (Mymensing)

At a meeting of the Mymensingh Hitakarini Sabha held at Krishnapur, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Anandacharan Choudhury, Kailashchandra Roy Chowdhury, Manmohon Chatterjee, M. A., Saratchandra Chakraverty, B. A., Bipinbehary Ghosh, Moulvi Abdul Rahaman Khan.

From Howrah

At a meeting held at the Bar Library, Howrah, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to attend the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Charuchandra Singha, M. A., B. L., Nityadhan Mukherji, Anathnath Chowdhury, M. A., B. L., Gangadhar Mukherjee, M. A , B. L., Trigunacharan Roy, M, A., B. L., Khogendranath Mitra, B. L., Narendranath Banerjee, B. L., Lalmohan Mukherji, B. L., Pundit Gispati Roy Chowdhury, Editor 'Howrah Hitoishi', Hemchandra Ghosh, B. L., Kshirodechandra Ghose, Landholder, Asutosh Mukherjee, Merchant, Satischandra Mukherji, Subodhchandra Bose, Borodaprasanna Pyne, B. L., Atulkrishna Singh, B. L.

From Howrah Brati Samiti

At a special meeting of the Howrah 'Brati Samiti' held on Saturday, the 16th March, Babus Durgadas Lahiri, Lalmohon Mukherjee, B. L., Asutosh Banerjee, and Amulyaratan Dass were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From Indian Association (Calcutta)

At a meeting of the committee of the Indian Association the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babu Narendranath Sen, Rai Amritanath Mitter Bahadur, Mr. R. D. Mehta, C. I. E., Moulvi Mahammad Yusuff Khan Bahadur, Babus Devaprasad Sarbadhicary, M. A., B. L., Devendra-chandra Ghosh, B. L., Dr. Satyaprosad Sarbadhicary, Babu Pramathanath Sen, M. A., B. L., Rai Manmathanath Mitter Bahadur, Mr. A. Rasul, the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Bose, M. A., B. L., Mr. J. Chowdhury, M. A., Babus Herambachandra Maitra, M. A., Krishnakumar Mitter, Prithwischandra Roy, Major N. P. Sinha, Babu Matilal Ghosh, Satyananda Bose, M. A., B. L., Mr. A. Chowdhury, M. A., Dr. Nilratan Sirkar, M. A., M. D., Messrs N. Chatterjee, A. C. Banerjee, A. K. Ghosh, Babus

Mahendranath Roy, M. A. B. L., Lalbehary Bysack, Surendranath Banerjee, Pramathanath Banerjee, M. A., Nareshchandra Sengupta, M. A., B. L., Moulvi Abul Kasim, the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehary Ghosh, the Hon'ble Babu Jogen'dranath Mukherjea, Pandit Kaliprasanna Kabyabisharad, Babu Akshoykumar Bose, Ashutosh Biswas, M. A., B. L., Atalbehari Ghosh, Haranchandra Banerjee, M. A., Rai Yatindranath Chowdhuri, Babus Hemendramohon Bose, Jotindramohon Bose, Purnachandra Nandi. Ramanimohon Chatterjea, M. A., Kabiraj Upendranath Sen, Babus Upendrakisore Rai, Prosaddas Boral, Mr. B. L. Chaudhury, Babus Kaminikumar Chanda, Kaliprasanna Biswas, Akshoykumar Dey, Harendranath Dutta, M. A., B. L., Narayanchandra Mukherjea, Amritakrishna Mullick, Kironchandra Singha, Basantakumar Bose, Sudhirkumar Lahiri, Charuchandra Ghosh, Priyolal Mullick, Amritachandra Ghosh, Atalchandra Ghosh, Baradanath Halder, Brojendranath Seal, Charuchandra Mitter, Harendranarayan Mitter, Harigopal Ghosh, Rashbehari Das, Gopalchandra Som, Amritalal Dey, A. G. Gokulchandra Chopra, Jitendralal Banerjea, M. A., Gyanchandra Rai, B. L.

From Indian Students' Association

The Association selected its President Babu

Surendranath Banerjee, Vice-Presidents Mr. J. Chowdhury and Mr. A. Rasul and its Secretaries Babu Krishnamohon Roy Chowdhury and Anath-jibon Basu, delegates to the Provincial Conference to be held at Berhampur.

From Jamsheerpur (Nadia)

At a meeting of the Jamsheerpur Hitasadhini Seva Samiti Babus Satyendranarayan Bagchi, B. L., and Sudhendumohon Bagchi, Zemindars, were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur during the Easter holidays.

From Jessore

The following delegates were elected to the Provincial Conference at a public meeting held at the Bandhab Samity Hall, Jessore :—

Babus Sukhamoy Dasgupta, Kiranchandra Basu, Radhikacharan Dutta, Jogendranath Sen, Radhikaprasad Basu, Anandamohan Chowdhury, Nabakumar Chowdhury, Ashutosh Basu, Matilal Ghosh and Hemendraprasad Ghosh.

From Calcutta (Kalighat Meeting)

A largely attended public meeting was held at the Kalighat M. V. School on the 17th March at 5 p. m. under the presidency of Babu Akshoykumar

Haldar in which the following resolutions were adopted :—

1. That the following gentlemen be elected as delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

Babus Matilal Ghosh, Bepinchandra Pal, Raja Subodhchandra Mullick, Messrs Arobinda Ghosh, P. Mitra, A. K. Ghosh, C. R. Das, R. N. Roy, S. N. Haldar, B. C. Chatterjee and P. R. Das, Bars-at-Law, Babu Kritantakumar Bose, Biswanath Bose, Saratchandra Sen, Atulkrishna Roy, Vakils ; Dr. R. G. Kar, Sundarimohon Das, Girishchandra Dey, Benimadhab Bose, Babus Brahmabandhab Upadhyay, Shyamsundar Chakrabarty, Jyotilal Mukherji, Hemendraprasad Ghosh, Barendralal Mukerjee, Pundits Priyanath Kabayatirtha, Sreepada Tattwasagar, Babus Haridas Haldar, Nrityagopal Roychoudhury, B. L, Benimadhab Banerjee, B. L, Haridas Das, M. A., B. L., Upendranath Dasgupta, B. L., Mohinimohon Chatterjee, M.A., B.L., Amulyadhan Addya, B. L., Anukulchandra Chatterjee, Dhirendranath Ghosh, Pleaders, Akshoykumar Mukherjee, Dwijendranath Bose, Muktears, Padmalochan Chatterjee, Akshoykumar Haldar, Kshetramohon Haldar, Sailendranath Haldar, Abinashchandra Haldar, Rajendranath Haldar, Harakumar Haldar, Benodbehari Haldar, Narendranath Haldar, Nandalal

Haldar, Gurupada Haldar, Susilchandra Haldar, Jitendralal Haldar, (A) Kasipati Haldar, Harendra-nath Haldar, Sadhu ch. Haldar, Mihirlal Mukherjee, Tinkari Mukherjee, Nareghchandra Mukherjee, Anathnath Banerjee, Amarprasad Mukherjee, Shebait, Sureshchandra Deb, Amarapati Banerjee, Merchant, Ranjankrishna Banerjee, Jitendranath Haldar, (B) Jotindranath Banerjee, Kalipada Goswami, Gorachand Bhattacharjee, Jaminikanta Dasgupta, B. A., Manoranjan Guha, Karticchandra Nan, Saradaachandra Sen, Narendranath Sett, Beharilal Chakrabartty, Classic Press, Dharmadas Bhattacharjee, Prosonnokumar Chatterjee, Peary-mohon Das, Haridas Chatterjee, M. A., Kiranchandra Sircar, M. A., B. L., Saratchandra Mukherjee, M. A., B. L., Makhanlal Mukherjee, Kaliprasad Sirkar, Chunilal Banerjee, Haripada Banerjee, Benimadhab Mukherjee, Atulchandra Ghosh, Bipinchandra Dey, Jitendralal Mukherjee, Nilmony Mukherjee, Haripada Bhattacharjee, Nikunjabehari Dutt, Fanibhusan Mukherjee, Narayanchandra Mukherjee, Harichaitanya Mukherjee, Taraknath Banerjee, Dhirendranath Mukherjee, Abinashchandra Mukherjee, Kishori mohon Mukherjee, Nripendranath Haldar, Kshetra-pada Mukherjee, Haripada Sen, and Troilokyanath Das.

Proposed by Babu Priyanath Kabyatirtha.

Seconded by Babu Nrityagopal Roychowdhury.

Carried unanimously.

2. That the following gentlemen be elected as delegates to the Literary Conference to be held at Berhampore.

Pundits Priyanath Kabyatirtha, Sreepada Tattwasagar, Babus Haridas Haldar, Jyotilal Mukherjee, Dwijendranath Bose, Atulchandra Ghosh, Birendralal Ghosh, Dr Benimadhab Bose.

Proposed from the Chair.

Carried unanimously.

3. That in view of the recent incidents in the country this meeting instructs the delegates to press on the consideration of the Bengal Provincial Conference the supreme necessity of taking immediate steps for the formation of a Committee of Surveillance and Protection throughout the Province.

Proposed by Dr Benimadhab Bose.

Seconded by Babu Jyotilal Mukherjee, Editor, Pratijna.

Carried unanimously.

4. That in view of the extreme poverty of the people and excessive expenditure in law-courts and of frequent failure of justice there, this meeting instructs the delegates to press on the consideration

of the Bengal Provincial Conference the supreme necessity for the formation of Committees of Arbitration throughout the Province.

Proposed by Babu Akshoykumar Mukherjee.

Seconded by Babu Abinashchandra Mukherjee.

Carried unanimously.

5. That in view of the scarcity and high price due specially to the corner in the rice market, this meeting supports the resolution adopted by the "Anna Samrakshini Sabha," recently held at the "Bangabasi office" under the presidency of H. H. Maharaja of Darbhanga and requests the delegates to press for its adoption and execution by the Provincial Conference.

Proposed by Babu Haridas Halder.

Seconded by Babu Ranjankumar Banerjee.

Carried unanimously.

At Kandi (Mursidabad)

At a meeting held under the presidency of Babu Harinarayan Misra, pleader, on the 22nd March the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur from Kandi Sub-division.

Babu Baikunthanath Mukherjee, Harinarayan Misra, Satishchandra Sinha, B. L., Harendra-chandra Sinha, B.L., Abinashchandra Banerjee, B.L.

Jagotgopal Sinha, B. L., Durgadas Adhikari, B. L., Dwijapada Banerjee, B. L., Sasadhar Sinha, Madhusudan Sinha, B. A., Jogendrachandra Chatterjee, Rakhalidas Mukherjee, B. L., Munshi Naibuddin Ahmad, Munshi Fuzle Ahmad, Babu Anantagopal Ghosh, B. L.

From Kenchkapur (Ghatal)

The Kenchkapur Swadesh Hitakarini Shava elected Babus Nageswarprosad Sinha and Sitaldas Rai, Zamindars, as delegates to the Berhampore Provincial Conference.

From Khajru

The people of Khajru, Sub-Division Contai, District Midnapore, at a public meeting presided over by Babu Girishchandra Mitter, elected Pandit Gispati Kabyatirtha and Babu Girischandra Mitter as delegates to the Berhampur Conference.

From Krishnagar

A meeting was held in the Public Library to elect delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur during the Easter holidays. Babu Hariprasad Chatterjee, B. L., presided. Babus Jyotiprasad Chatterjee, Hariprasad Chatterjee, Sarat-

chandra Sanyal, Indubhusan Chakravarti, Indubhusan Bhaduri, Sarojranjan Basu, Jatindrakumar Bose, Nandagopal Bhaduri, Baidyanath Dutta, Nalinaksha Dutta, Ashutosh Dutt, Lalgopal Dutt, Bacharam Lahiri, Lalitkumar Chatterjee, Saradaprasanna Sanyal, Bishnubehari Roy, Akshoykumar Mukherjee, Upendranarayan Bagchi, Mahitosh Biswas, Prafullakumar Mukherjee, Benwarilal Ganguli, Prasannacoomar Ganguli, Anukulchandra Mukherjee, Harimohon Maitra, Dharmadas Sarker, Devendranath Banerjee, Nanigopal Banerjee, Jyotirmoy Mukherjee and Mr. T. Banerjee were elected delegates to the Conference.

From Maldah

At a public meeting at the premises of Soubhratra Sadan Moulvi Mahammad Nurbuksh presiding, Babus Radheschandra Sett, B. L., Bipinbehary Ghosh, B. L., Panchanan Mazumdar, B. L., Prasannakumar Raha, B. L., Harigopal Chatterjee, B. A. and Raikishore Pramanik, Muktear were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference from Maldah.

From Midnapore

At a public meeting the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Berhampore Conference—

Messrs K. B. Dutta, B. N. Sasmal Chowdhury, Jamininath Mullick, Moulvi Abdur Rezak Zeauddin Shaheb, Babu Matilal Mukherjee, Abinashchandra Mitra, Pyarilal Ghosh, Kishoripati Roy and Jnanadananda Sen.

From Monghyr

At a public meeting held in the Monghyr Bar Library under the presidency of D. K. Mullick, Esq., Bar-at-law, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference :—

Mr. D. K. Mullick, Babu Jotikumar Ghosal, Gopalchandra Som, Gurjote Sahai.

From Mullick Bazar

The Swadesh Sebak Sampradaya of Mullick Bazar held a meeting and elected Dr. Bilashchandra Sen Gupta, as a delegate to the Berhampur Conference.

From Mymensingh

Babu Kasiswar Guharai, Hemchandra Dasgupta, Zamindars, Pramathanath Sengupta, Jasodakumar Ghosh, Rajanichandra Mitra, pleader, were elected delegates to the Berhampur Conference.

At a public meeting held on the 26th March, some expressed indication for holding the Conference

at Berhampur. The meeting elected Babus Kaliprasanna Dasgupta, Headmaster, Anandacharan Chaudhury, Umeshchandra Chakladar, Krishnakumar Mitra, Akhilbandhu Guha, Nareshchandra Sen as delegates to the Conference.

From Naogaon (Rajshahi)

The following gentlemen of Naogaon were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur by the Naogaon Swadeshi Panchayet:—

Babus Benimadhab Chaki, pleader, Haranath Gupta, Secretary, Bar Library, Naogaon, Jogendranath Khan of Enaitpore.

From Narayangunge

At a meeting held on the 19th March at the Bar Library Babus Protapchandra Chanda, Surendranath Das, Aswinikumar Dutt, Preonath Bose, Manomohon Dhar, Rabinkumar Bhattacharjya, Bipinchandra Das and Nishibhusan Mittra, pleader, were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

The Narayangunge Library Association nominated the following gentlemen as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

Babus Harendranath Ganguli, L. M. S., Kalimohon De, Rajanikanta Roy, Aswinikumar Dutt,

Bhubaneswar Dhar, Satischandra Sen, Kumudini-kanta Roy, Nisibhusan Mitra, Preonath Guha, Hemantakumar Ghosh and Upendranath Sen.

The Narayangunge People's Association convened a public meeting on the 16th March. Babu Harendrakumar Roy, Zemindar, took the chair. Babu Manmohon Dhar, B. L., delivered a stirring speech on the prosecution and conviction of the Editor and the proprietor of the 'Punjabee' and the recent trouble at Comilla. The following resolutions were carried unanimously :—

Resolution 1. The following gentlemen be elected as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

Babus Harendrakumar Roy, Priyanath Guha, Harendranath Ganguli, Mahendrachandra Dhar, Nandakumar Chowdhuri, Kumudinikanta Roy, Jogen-drachandra Das, Mukundalal Das, Krishnakishore Deb, Adityachandra Ganguli, Kalimohon Dey, Manmohon Dhar, Khageshchandra Nag, Arunkanta Nag, Murarimohon Guha, Nishikanta Dutta, Abinashchandra Basu, Prabhatchandra Dasgupta, Rameshchandra Roy, Jatindrachandra Chakravarti, Sreenath Dutta, Chandramohon Shaha, Nishikanta Roy, Rajanikanta Roy, Anandacharan Chakravarti, Debendranath Sarker and Probodhchandra Das.

The following gentlemen were elected by the

Narayangunge Muktear's Library as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Lalitmohon Dutta, Mukundalal Das, Tarinicharan Saha, Krishnakishore Deb, Kumudini-kanta Roy, Prankumar Das, Nandakumar Chowdhury, Debendrachandra Roy, Debendrachandra Das and Bhubaneshwar Dhar.

From Natore

At a meeting of the Natore Association the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

Babu Kuladamohon Maitra, Pleader, Kalinath Sanyal, Jagadiswar Roy, Chandranath Pramanick, Zemindar, Murabag, Jnanendranath Khan, Zemindar, Jotindranath Lahiri, Karunasankar Bachpai, Harisankar Bachpai, Saratchandra Maitra, Zeminder, Kabiraj Promothanath Roy, Kabiranjana, Dr. Ramesh chandra Sarker, L. M. S., Dr. Kedarnath Mojumder.

From Nelphamari

At a special meeting of the Nelphamari Sammilani Sabha, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Prasannakumar Sen, Gopalchandra Ghosh,

Monmohon Mukhopadhyay, Bisweswar Gupta, Gopalchandra Ghosh, B. L., Haralal Ghosh. Babu Brojakumar Bhattacharjya, B. L. was in the chair.

From Pabna

Babus Gopalchandra Saha, Sitanath Adhikary, Jagadishchandra Roy, Trailokyamohon Neogi, Monomohon Sen, Prasannanath Roy, Pleaders, Bonwarilal Goswami (Editor Mursidabad Hitaishi), Jadavachandra Goswami and Mr. J. Chaudhury were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at a public meeting held on the 17th March.

At a public meeting held at the Kalibari Natmandir under the auspices of the Pabna Bande Mataram Samiti, at which Dr Jagatchandra Roy, a distinguished Swadeshi leader, presided, the following resolutions were passed :

(i) That this meeting expresses its deep and sincere sympathy with the people of Comilla in their present troubles and condemns the policy to divide one race from another.

(ii) That this meeting re-affirms its protest against partition and supports the Swadeshi and Boycott movement.

(iii) That the following delegates be elected to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur during the Easter holidays :—

Drs. Jagatchandra Ray, L. M. S., Harishchandra Mojumdar, Kunjalal Saha, Babus Harinath Bagchi, Jadavchandra Goswami, Taraknath Pramanik, Gopalchandra Saha, Pleader, Dinanath Biswas, pleader, Bonomali Mojumdar, pleader, Jagadishchandra Roy, pleader, Baradaprosad Bose, pleader, Bama ch. Mojumdar, Jyotishchandra Sen, Jnanendranath Saha, Purnachandra Saha, Devendranath Saha, Munshi Anarali, Babus Sitanath Adhicary, pleader, Jnanada G. Chakravarti, pleader, Bidhubhusan Bhattacharjee, pleader, Jotindranath Moitra, pleader, Troilokyamohon Neogi, pleader, Harachandra Bhowmik, pleader, Ijibar Rahaman, Babu Chandranath Saha, Dr. Umeshchandra Bagchi, Messrs A. Choudhury, J. Choudhury, K. Choudhury, P. Choudhury, A. N. Choudhury, Babus Surendranath Banerjee, Matilal Ghosh, Bipinchandra Pal, Mr. A. Rasul, Babus Krishnakumar Mitra, Rakhal-das Moitra, Jitendrasingha Sarker, Mohinimohon Lahiri, Amulyachandra Banerjee, Raicharan Roy, Kshetramohon Barat, Jotindramohon Nandi.

From Perojipore

Babus Binodelal Mukherjee, Ashutosh and Anukulchandra Roy (pleaders), Basantakumar Das, Purnachandra Mukherjee, Ganapati Banerjee (Muktears) were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur.

From Purneah

At a public meeting the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampore. The Hon'ble Jogendranath Mukherji, Babus Ram Prasad, Dhanukdhari Prasad, Binode behari Missar, Moulvi Abdul Rashed.

From Rajpore

The following gentlemen were elected by the members of the Literary Society, Rajpore, as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur, during the Easter holidays :—

Babu Kshirodkumar Chakravarty, B. L., Rajendralal Bhattacharji, Srishchandra Roy, Rajendrakumar Bose, B. A., and Jogendranath Sarkar, B. L.

From Rajshahi

The following gentlemen were elected delegates from the Rajshahi Association to attend the Provincial Conference at Berhampore :

Maharaja Jagadindranath Roy Bahadur, Raja Ramanikanta Roy, Kumar Saratkumar Roy, Roy Kedarprasanna Lahiri Bahadur, Sreejukta Gossain Ramratan Bharati, Ray Krishnacharan Sanyal Bahadur, Babu Bhubanmohon Maitra, Babu Chandranath Chowdhuri, Babu Kishorimohon Chowdhuri, Babu Kedareswar Acharja, Babu

Akshayakumar Maitra, Babu Kaliprasanna Acharja, Babu Mahendrakumar Shah Chowdhury, Babu Surendranath Bhuya, Babus Nishinath Sanyal, Moulvi Soleman Hossain, Moulvi Hafazuddin Hafiz, Babu Anukoolchandra Chakravarty, Babu Sudarshanchandra Chakravarty, Babu Maheshchandra Roy, Babu Bhabanigobinda Chowdhuri, Babu Durgadas Bhattacharjee, Babu Debendra chandra Bhattacharji, Babu Sreegobinda Roy, Babu Jadabgobinda Sen, Babu Ramchandra Roy, Babu Rajanikanta Sen, Babu Chandrakishore Sen, Babu Aswinikumar Maitra, Babu Ramratan Mukherjea, Babu Sureshchandra Roy, Bar-at-Law, Babu Kumudnath Dutta, Babu Gouricharan Maitra, Babu Krishnanarayan Roy, Babu Rajkumar Sircar, Babu Nriyagopal Pande, Babu Surendranath Maitra, Babu Sasinath Lahiri, Babu Chandranath Bhattacharjee, Babu Moheswar Bhattacharjya, Babu Akshoykumar Bahadur.

At a meeting of the Rajshahi Standing Congress Committee held on the 22nd March, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Berhampur Provincial Conference :

Kumar Ramanikanta Rai of Chowgram, M. A., Maharajah Jagadindranath Rai of Natore, Kumar Saratkumar Rai of Dighapatia, M. A., Rai Kedar prasanna Lahiri Bahadur of Kasimpore, Gosvami

Ramratan Bharati, Banker-Rajshahi, Rai Krishna chandra Sanyal Bahadur, Babus Bhubanmohon Maitra, Chandranath Chaudhury, L. M. S., Keshorimohon Chaudhury, M. A., B. L., Kedareswar Acharja, M. B., Akshayakumar Maitra, B. L., Akshay kumar Bhaduri, L. M. S., Kaliprasanna Acharya, B. L., Surendranath Bhuya, B. L., Nisinath Sanyal, L. M. S., Maulvis Soleman Hossen, Hafiz Uddin Hafez, Babus Anukulchandra Chakravarty, B. L., Sudarshan Chakravarty, B. L., Maheschandra Roy, B. L., Bhabanigobinda Chaudhury, B. L., Durgadas Bhattacharji, B. L., Devendrachandra Bhattacharjee, B. L., Srigobinda Rai, B. L., Jadugobinda Sen, Zemindar of Mohadebpur, Ramchandra Rai, B. L., Rajanikanta Sen, B. L., Chandrakishore Sen, Aswinikumar Maitra, B. L., Ramsaran Mukherji, B. L., Surendranath Rai, Bar-at-Law, Kumudnath Dutta, Gouricharan Maitra, Krishnanarayan Rai, Rajkumar Sarker, Nrityagopal Pandey, Surendranath Maitra, Sasinath Lahiri, B. L., Chandranath Bhattacharjee, B. L., Moheswar Bhattacharja, B. L.

From Rammohon Library (Calcutta)

At a meeting of the Committee of the Rammohon Library and Reading Rooms the following gentlemen were selected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :

Babus Haradhan Nag, M. A., B. L., Devakumar Roychowdhury, Promathanath Banerji M. A., Rajendralal Ganguly, Dwijendranath Pal, Mr. D. L. Roy, M. A., M. R. A. S., Babu Saratchandra Mazoomdar and Birendranath Ghosh, B. A.

From Sadhak Samity

At a Committee meeting held at the office of the Sadhak Samity (Late Anti-Partition Procession party) on the 20th March the following delegates were elected to the Provincial Conference :—

Babus Surendranath Banerjee, Krishnakumar Mitra, Patrons of the Samity, Lalbihari Shaw, Panchcowri Banerjee, Sudhirchandra Banerji, Dr. Haridhan Dutt, Babus Avinashchandra Das, Bhupatinath Bose (President of the Samity). The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Literary Conference at Berhampur on 31st March :—

Babus Haridhan Dutta, Avinashchandra Das, and Dharmananda Mahabharat.

From Saraswati Institute (Calcutta)

At a meeting held in connection with the Saraswati Institute, on Sunday at the Calcutta High School, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference to be held at Berhampur :—

Babus Surendranath Banerjea, Narendranath Sen, Mr. A. C. Banerji, Bar-at-Law, Moulvi Abdul Hosein, Babus Lalitmohon Ghosal, S. C. Sadhukhan, Pramathanath Chatterji and Rashbehari Ghosh.

From Sasipada Institute

The Sasipada Institute elected Rai Yatindra nath Chaudhury, M. A., B. L., Babu Basantakumar Chaudhury, M. A., B. L., Babu Muttylal Sen, B. A., and Babu Bisweswar Sen as their delegates to the Conference to be held at Berhampur during the Easter holidays.

From Sealdah Bar (Calcutta)

A meeting of the members of the Sealdah Bar Library was held at the Library room under the presidency of Babu Kailaschandra Kanjilal, B. L. to elect delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference and Bengal Literary Conference to be held at Berhampur during the Easter holidays. Babus Kasiswar Roy, B. L. and Babu Jogendranath Goswami were elected to represent the Sealdah Bar Association at the above Conferences.

From Singur

At a meeting of the Burasanty Friends Club, the following gentlemen were elected as delegates to the Provincial Conference, Berhampur :—

Babus Santoshkumar Biswas, Zeminder—Hara, Basantakumar Mitter, Zeminder—Pamiseola, Promothanath Barman, Zeminder—Singur, Ashutosh Acharya, B. L., Upendranath Das, Sourindranath Chatterjee, Nityananda Chatterji.

From Students' and Youngmen's Union

The Union elected the following ladies and gentlemen as delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Sister Nivedita, Babu Surendranath Banerjea, President, Mr. A. Chaudhury, Mr. J. Chaudhury, Mr. A. Rasul, Babu Hirendranath Dutt, Vice-Presidents, Babu Jitendralal Banerjee, General Secretary, Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi, Mr. A. K. Ghosh, Mr. Abul Kasim, Mr. Mujibar Rahaman, Dr. S. K. Mullick, Maulvi Abul Majid, Maulavi Esmail Hossein Shiraji, Kumar Saradindunarayan Roy, Babus Krishnakumar Mitra, Bipinbehari Gupta, Jnanchandra Roy, Bhupatinath Basu, Naresh chandra Sengupta, Satindraprasad Basu, Bipinbehari Dasgupta, Santoshkumar Sen, Pareshchandra Dasgupta, Atindrakumar Dasgupta, Jaminikumar Chakravarty, Dhirendranath Dutt, Rasikohandra Biswas, Surendrachandra Pal, Girindrachandra Sen, Narendranath Dutta.

From Suri

At a public meeting held at the Suri Bar Library, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Nabinchandra Banerjee, pleader, Krishnanath Mukherji, Zemindar, Devendranath Chakravarty, Editor 'Birbhum Barta', Manmathanath Gue, B. A., Amulyachandra Banerji, Sureshchandra Sanyal, Zamindar, Damodarchandra Brojabasi, Zamindar.

From Swadeshi Association (Calcutta)

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference from the Swadeshi Association, Calcutta :—

Babus Bipinbehari Dasgupta, B. A., Nandalal Mukherji, Lakshmikanta Gupta, Bipinbehari Gupta, Satishchandra Gupta, Harendranath Mukherjee, Saratchandra Gupta, Jatindranath Sett, Nagendra nath Gupta, Rajendralal Saha, Nandalal Das, Mukundachandra Roy, Mahendranath Sengupta, Birendra Dasgupta, Surendranath Dasgupta, B. A.

From Sylhet Union

At a special meeting of Sylhet Union, held on the 25th March, under the presidency of Babu Bipinchandra Pal, Vice-President of the Union,

the following gentlemen were unanimously elected delegates to the Bengal Provincial Conference at Berhampore :

Babus Sundarimohon Das, M. B., Bipinchandra Pal, Tarakishore Choudhury, M. A., B. L., Moulvi Mahammed Habibullah, B. L., Babus Mohendranath De, B. Sc., Kailashchandra Chakravarty, B. A., Dharmadas Datta, Gopendranarayan Sinha Mazumdar, Gaganchandra Das, Pramathanath Chowdhuri, Rameshchandra Bhattachariya, Kunjakishore Chandra, Umeshchandra Aditya, Basantakumar Das, Pareshlal Shome.

From Tangail

At a meeting of the 'Sakrail Hitasadhani Sava' held on the 21st March, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial and Literary Conferences at Berhampur :—

Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi, Babus Krishnakumar Mitra, Nareshchendra Sengupta, M. A., B. L., Padminimohon Niyogi.

From Traders and Importers, Calcutta

At a meeting of Traders and Importers held at 63, Ezra Street on the 18th March the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Mr. J. Chaudhury, Mr. A. H. Goznavi, Babus Radharaman Kar, Gopal Patuck, Nageswar Prosad, Jannoolal Kanoria.

From Ultadanga

At a public meeting held at Ultadanga on the 21st March, Babus Susilchandra Neogi, M. A., B. L., M. R. A. S. (Lond.), Durgacharan Banerjee, M. A., B. L., Payodhinath Mukherjee, B. A., Hemprasad Maitra, B. L., were elected delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampore.

From Uluberia

The following gentlemen were duly elected by the Uluberia Branch, Indian Association as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur :—

Babus Tinkari Ghosh, Pleader, Sitalchandra Ghosal, Jogendranath Chakravarty, Romapati Roy, Ramkamal Roy, Baradaprasad Chakravarty, Nandalal Ghosh, Satishchandra Sen, Munshi Golam Rohaman.

From Urshiara (Tripura)

The following gentlemen were elected as delegates to the Provincial Conference at Berhampur,

at a meeting of "Suhrid Samiti" of the Urshiara village on the 21st March :—

Kaviraj Jogendrachandra Sengupta, Babus Surendrachandra Sengupta, Surendrachandra Nandy, Dharendraanath Dutta, Devendranath Datta, Jitendra nath Datta.

13

An Editorial Note of the 'Bengalee' on 29. 3. 1907*The Provincial Conference*

Christmas is the season for the session of the National Congress. Easter is set apart for the sitting of the Provincial Conferences. In the course of the next two or three days, Provincial Conferences will be sitting at Berhampur in Bengal, at Surat in Bombay, at Allahabad in Upper India and at Amraoti in Central Provinces. The whole country is astir with the signs of public life, and the future is radiant with hope. The only dark cloud which is visible in the horizon is the note of discord which is struck here and there, and which, whenever even its faintest echoes are heard, gladdens the hearts of our critics. In the gradual evolution of national life, there must be differences. All growth is indeed the product of the counteraction of opposing forces. But there must be harmony even amid differences and the healing voice of charity must be heard far above

the din of conflicting opinions. Let not the Indian patriot forget the lessons which Irish history teaches with such impressive force. That history is one long record of melancholy disappointments. The Irish may be within a measurable distance of the promised land, but they have not yet reached it. Often in their history did it disappear even when within sight, like the mirage of the desert—the fruits of their victory eluding the grasp of an expectant nation. The secret of their misfortunes is written in every page of their history—a warning to struggling nations, which they should seriously lay to heart. It is the internal struggles, the personal bickerings, the petty party controversies, often magnified to meet the ends of personal ambitions, that have often proved the grave of Ireland's fondest and most patriotic aspirations. Too often the pages of Irish history have been smirched with the tale of party-struggles which have indefinitely postponed the fulfilment of the great dreams of Irish patriots. We greatly admire the heroism and the long-continued struggle for freedom which the Irish have maintained throughout their long history. But their disappointments, and at times their total collapse, furnish an object lesson which we should do well to profit by. Next to the religious, the political passions are the strongest, and, for the highest ends of the country, they must be

controlled by wisdom and a clear perception of the situation. In a time of excitement, nothing is more natural than to be carried away by the most baseless fictions and to indulge in passions, altogether out of proportion to the actual situation. The moral qualities are all interlinked together. If we give way in one particular matter or in one particular side of our nature, the moral fibres are relaxed along the entire line and we become the less qualified for the high duties which love of country imposes upon us. Our patriotism is a religion. Let it not be debased by party spirit, by factions wrangling or by the base alloy of the partition, chastened and disciplined by the love of truth—of truth in the highest sense as understood by our ancestors and enbalméd in our Sanskrit word—and controlled by the firm resolve to see and understand things as they are, will yet prove the salvation of our race.

14

**An Editorial Note of the 'Amrita Bazar
Patrika' on 29. 3. 1907**

The Berhampur Conference

The Berhampur Conference sits to-day and to-morrow. We do not know precisely the object of this gathering of delegates from different districts. If it be simply to pass some stereotyped resolutions

and make speeches, there is absolutely no need for such a show ; for, not only have we had enough of talking and whining but at the last Provincial Conference at Barisal, which was attended by the pick of Bengal, a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the orthodox line of agitation should be abandoned and replaced by a more practical and manly one. We trust, the spirit which guided the promoters of the Barisal Conference will also be the keynote of those who have brought about the one at Berhampur.

There is very good reason, why people previously had faith in what is now known as orthodox agitation, by which is meant the passing of resolutions, the delivery of speeches and the submission of petitions. There was a time when the rulers professed great love for the ruled and promised many good things to them. The former gave the people to understand that if they kept quiet or respectfully brought their grievances to the Governing authorities they would gradually be raised up to the position of the British Citizen. The people believed them and expected the generation of the country from following their advice. So they continued to speechify, whine and memorialize.

In the due course, however, the people came to perceive that the rulers' declaration of love for them

ought to have been taken with some reservation, if not exactly in a Pickwickian sense, but surely not too literally. This discovery no doubt surprised them ; yet they entertained the notion that they could not be wholly disappointed. They, however, received a great shock when Lord Curzon told them that the Queen's Proclamation was more a joke than a solemn engagement between the Indians and the English ; and finally, they lost all faith in constitutional agitation when Bengal was partitioned in the teeth of bitter opposition from the whole nation. It was then that their eyes were thoroughly opened and they felt as if they had been deceived by the counsels of their rulers. But, it was at Barisal last year, when the local authorities were allowed to behave like rowdies and trample the law of the land under foot, that the leaders came to understand that the liberty of the subject was a myth, and political agitation a farce.

The rulers, on their part, also took every opportunity of convincing the people that the latter had misunderstood them. It was the fault of the people themselves, they said, if they had put faith in the rulers. Why did they do so ? For nobody told them that the present generation of rulers would fulfil the promises and pledges of their predecessors. The rulers thus grumbled and called the people an

ungrateful and discontented lot when they took the authorities severely to task for not paying any heed to their petitions and treating their prayers with contempt. At last, the truth has dawned on the minds of the rulers and the ruled alike that there was too much expectation on both sides, and hence there was disappointment and misunderstanding.

In short, the people and the authorities have come to realize that they had hitherto misunderstood one another ; and a change in the method of agitation for regeneration of the country has, therefore, become absolutely necessary. The situation can be explained by a story. A Dutchman once came across an Irishman on a lonely highway. As they met, each smiled thinking they knew each other.

Pat on seeing his mistake, remarked with a look of disappointment—"Faith an. I thought it was you, an' then you thought it was me, an' it is neyther of us."

The Dutchman replied : "You dot's dhrue ; I am anoder man, and you is not yourself, we pe both other bodies, and had made a mistake."

The question now is, how should the regeneration of the country be brought about. The answer is—by the Swadeshi movement. Indeed, the remedy is known and is very simple, but the difficulty is, there are very few who are willing to adopt it. Ask

the leaders to make speeches, and they will readily travel from China to Peru. But, ask them to re-introduce the charka (spinning wheel) for the purpose of removing the yarn difficulty, and there is hardly one who will respond to the call.

The promoters of the Berhampur Conference will deserve well of the country if they can arrange to have the scheme, adopted the other day at the Comilla District Conference, introduced in a number of districts in both Bengals. The resolutions, which were passed at the Comilla Conference, are reproduced in another column. We trust the delegates assembled at Berhampur, will see their way to adopt these resolutions in their entirety or with only such modifications as may be necessary. Above all, we hope Babu Baikunthanath Sen, who has invited the Conference to Berhampur, will earn the thanks of his people by making the Swadeshi movement a living thing in his own district. He will have to spend several thousands of rupees to meet the cost of the Conference and undergo a good deal of trouble to accord a fitting reception to his guests. But his money will be well spent and his trouble will bear excellent fruits if he succeeds in establishing organizations at all the centres of action in his district to carry on the Swadeshi propaganda.

We can secure our practical freedom by doing only three things, namely, (1) by taking up the education of the people in our own hands ; (2) by giving up litigation ; (3) by eschewing foreign articles. The first may be a difficult task as it requires an outlay of a vast sum of money ; but surely the other two are quite within our power. When we are at home we are as free as Englishmen. But the moment we enter the precincts of a court-house, we feel that we are in a different element and are breathing in a choking atmosphere. It is then that we are reminded of our utter helplessness and of the lordly majesty of the Judge or the Magistrate or the Police Superintendent—nay, even of the petty constable and the peon, armed as they all are with more or less sovereign powers. In short, the paraphernalia of the courts and the officialdom are calculated to produce the most chilling and enervating effect even upon the stoutest heart. Why should we seek these demoralizing evils when we can give a wide berth to them ?

Similarly on no occasion do we feel our worthlessness more vividly and keenly than when we have to use an article of foreign manufacture. What can be more degrading than that we in Bengal must go naked and eat food without salt, if Manchester were to cease sending us its yarns and fabrics and

Liverpool its saline manufacture ? Yet only 40 years ago we used to spin our own yarns, weave our cotton fabrics and manufacture our own salt !

There is another work before the Conference. We must have a Central Committee for the purpose of inaugurating, directing, supervising and controlling political agitation in Bengal. At the Dacca Conference the names of the Committee were proposed and approved. Mr. A. Chaudhuri also wrote a note on the subject and circulated it among the leading men of the country. If possible the Berhampur Conference should formally constitute such a Committee, with powers to add, if necessary, to their number. Would it be believed that, very few leading men were consulted about the Conference at Berhampur ? If there was no row made over the matter, it was to avoid a split. But it is very objectionable, to say the least, that a Conference should be held in the name of the province without bringing the matter formally to the notice of all recognized leaders of the country.

15

First Day's Proceedings of the Conference

(as reported in the Amrita Bazar

Patrika on 4.4.1907)

The train conveying most of the delegates from Calcutta left Sealdah on Thursday night at 10 p. m. Long before the appointed hour, the whole station was full of people going to attend the Conference. Among the crowd youthful faces, full of promise and beaming with ardent patriotism formed the majority. Crowds began to gather by 8 p. m. But the doors were shut against them and they could not enter the Railway platform. The rush and tumult at the ticket office was awful. One had to wait full half-an-hour before he could get out with a ticket and simply to elbow his way out through the crowd. The week-end concession allowing third class passengers to perform double journey at one fare seems to be the cause of such heavy rush. Fortunately there was friendly co-operation and help and hence everything passed off smoothly.

The station gates were opened at about half-an-hour before the train started. The ticket collectors at the gate only opened one door and kept the other closed to facilitate punching. But the sudden inroad at the station yard was too much to admit of any such meagre arrangement to continue for any length

of time. The crowd, therefore, entered the platform all at a time. The presence of the delegates and visitors on the platform was the signal for the shouting of "Bande-Mataram" which continued for a long time. The European passengers looked nervous, but the rest appreciated the cry. As soon as the train steamed off the station there went forth another loud and prolonged chorus of "Bande-Mataram". At every station there were shouts of "Bande-Mataram" by the delegates.

When the historic Plassey was reached, late at night, almost all the delegates looked out into the vast field, which was the scene of that never-to-be-forgotten battle which established British Supremacy in India.

The train reached Berhampur station in the early hours of the morning. There were a few leading men including Babu Baikunthanath Sen to greet the delegates. The common populace were conspicuous by their absence. This is because the Conference was summoned in haste and the ground was not prepared beforehand. On alighting from the train, we were shown the several hackney carriages that were waiting to carry the delegates to the quarters fixed for them. As the carriages passed through the streets, it struck us that the general public were rather apathetic to the national movement which electrifies

the whole country, especially East Bengal. East Bengal men missed that burning enthusiasm and earnestness, which he finds depicted on the face of ordinary men in this part of the country especially on the occasion of such gatherings as the Congress or Conference. The two palatial residences, the Lalgola house and the Baroa house were set apart for the delegates. The arrangements for the delegates were exceedingly good, and the hospitality of the Berhampur people was more than what could be expected. We have not words sufficient to praise them for the trouble and sacrifices they underwent for us. Babu Baikunthanath, even in his old age, was seen supervising personally all the details for the arrangements. His energy was unbounded.

Just an hour before the conference was timed to sit, a number of young delegates and volunteers of East Bengal came hurriedly to the Lalgola house to meet Babu Surendranath. Indignation was apparent on their bright faces. Babu Krishnakumar Mitra, Editor "Sanjibani", came out to meet them. They told him that Bent-wood chairs had been used in the Pandal, and that some objectionable mottoes stuck on the Pandal walls. They strongly objected to such Bentwood "Bidesi" chairs being retained in the pandal and said that

they did not like unnecessary and useless display of loyalty. They further complained that they had heard that the Samiana under which the Conference was to meet was made of "Bidesi" cloth, and that they being not sure of that begged to be enlightened on the point. A good many delegates, middle-aged and old, also protested against these "Bidesi" articles being used in the Conference and they declared that they would rather squat on "Sataranchis" or if need be even on the green grass than enjoy the luxury of sitting on "Bidesi" chairs. They represented that the questions had once and for all been settled at the Calcutta Congress and that they could not tolerate it any longer. Baikuntha Babu then came to the rescue and he said that he would forthwith remove the "Bidesi" chairs. He also told them emphatically in reply to their query about the Samiana that the same was made of pure Swadeshi cloth. The audience then said that they believed him, and with shouts of "Bande Mataram" they left the place. The objectionable mottoes were also subsequently removed by some volunteers, for when we entered the Pandal we found none therein. There were no decorations except that the Pandal posts were wrapped round with coloured cloths; and there shone in resplendent letters a big "Bande-Mataram" motto outside the Pandal just at

the entrance, but strange to say there were none inside.

There was a new departure, what for we would leave the readers to judge for themselves, in the reception of the President-elect. The custom is to escort the President-elect to the pandal, by a procession of volunteers through the streets. But the arrival of the President here, to say in official phraseology, was Private. He was attended by a few Bhagalpur delegates who came as his personal guards. Had the last year's sad experience anything to do with this ?

There was a peculiar arrangement, which was marked by the East Bengal delegates and some were rather disgusted with it. Some police men in uniform, were seen standing some yards off the pandal, but inside the compound. In Barisal they could not come inside the compound even without permission. Babu Bepinchandra Pal requested Babu Baikunthanath Sen, at the close of the first day's sitting, to order them to move out of the compound. Baikuntha Babu remained silent. Bepin Babu enquired if there was any arrangement with the authorities to that effect, to which Baikuntha Babu at once replied "No, nothing of the sort." Bepin Babu then repeated his request to see that the police were

not allowed inside the compound the next day. Baikuntha Babu remained silent for a while and then said that he would consider the matter. The East Bengal delegates were however grieved to see that the police remained stationed within the compound during the whole session of the Conference.

The number of the delegates was exceedingly large, more than what could be expected in such a far-off place. We hear some 5 to 6 hundred delegates attended the conference which assembled at about 4 p. m. on the first day. The delegates and visitors squatted on Sataranchis. This was a pure Swadeshi affair. It was a novel, and we should say, welcome departure. May we hope this will be a precedent for all the subsequent conferences? The dais was made of wooden planks supported by masonic pillars: on it sat the members of the Reception Committee and other distinguished delegates.

The proceedings commenced with the national anthem, "Bande-Mataram." Rai Bahadur Sreenath Pal, Chairman of the Reception Committee, read out his speech inviting the delegates. It was a loyalist speech from start to finish. The audience signified their disapproval of the sentiments expressed therein by frequent hisses and shouts of "No, No."

Babu Surendranath Banerjee then proposed in a neat little speech that Mr. Deepnarain Singh be elected President. He referred to the Swadeshi, Boycott and even "Swaraj", and hinted that "Swaraj" was the goal of our national life. He spoke, if I remember aright on "Swaraj" for the first time at a banquet given in Mr. Bryce's honour.

The President Mr. Dipnarain Singh, Bar-at-law, Zemindar of Bhagalpur, then rose up amidst tremendous cheers. He received an enthusiastic ovation. He was a middle-aged man, attired in his native costume of Payjama and Uchkan, with a silk pagree. His physique was splendidly beautiful. His delivery was articulate and full of force. His speech was so full of the new spirit of self-reliance, and the new nationalist sentiment, that it was a welcome contrast to the preceding one.

The names of the members of the Subjects Committee were next announced. At first it was announced that the Subjects Committee would sit at 6-30 in the evening. But Babu Bipinchandra Pal raised an objection, stating that a number of delegates had reached at 3 p. m. that date and attended the Conference without breakfast. It would therefore be rather a severe hardship on them to wait there till 4 p. m., if they were to attend the Subjects Committee. He requested the President

to arrange for the meeting of the Subjects Committee next morning at 7-30 a. m. Babu Surendranath objected to this, as in that case the Conference could not sit before 3 or 4 p. m. the next day. The President ruled that Mr. Pal's suggestion was fair and he announced that the Subjects Committee would sit next morning.

17

Second Day's Proceedings of the Conference

(*As reported in the Amrita Bazar Patrika*
on 5. 4. 1907.)

Babu Bipinchandra Pal with a large number of Nationalists arrived at the pandal at about 7 a. m. in the morning and was shown a place, where it was said the Subjects Committee would sit. They sat for a time, but none else turned up ; they then sent a man to the other delegates who were in the Recreation Club Building with the President. The gentlemen at the Club, on the other hand, asked Mr. Pal and his party to come over to the Club building ; for they said, the meeting of the Subjects Committee would be held there. But the delegates, who were in the pandal, strongly refused to move, as they could not possibly run from post to pillar. Babu Baikunthanath then came and asked them to come over to the Club building and said that it was through a mistake that

they had been shown that place, although it was arranged that the Subjects Committee would sit in the Club house. But none would yet move. Then came Babu Ambicacharan Mazumder and requested Babu Bepinchandra and others to come to the Club, saying that as he was a "Bangal" like them, they should comply with the request. Babu Bipinchandra retorted it saying that if he were a "Bangal" he would never have sat in the Legislative Council. Babu Ambicacharan felt this biting remark rather too keenly.

By this time it was almost 9 a. m., and Babu Asutosh Chaudhuri came round on the spot, when a compromise was come to that half of the room in the club house should be reserved for the new party, and that they would have equal advantages and so forth. Then they all went. The Subjects Committee sat at 9 a. m., and finished its work by 1 p. m. There were hot discussions during the sitting of the Committee, the new party having raised many objections from time to time. The President then suggested that as there was such difference of opinion six from each party should meet and discuss with the President and settle everything. This suggestion was readily accepted.

I shall now record a melancholy incident. Just after the meeting was over Mr. Asutosh Chaudhuri

charged Babu Bipinchandra Pal with certain alleged mis-statements of facts in his "New India" re. the deputation to Lord Minto. Babu Bepinchandra retorted at once by saying that he had come there not as the editor of "New India", but as a delegate to the Conference, and represented to the President that such personal matters should not be discussed in public. Mr. Asutosh Chaudhuri continuing, in the impulsiveness of this feeling, the President, at once came between them and asked them both to discuss the matter in private. But for President's timely intervention, there might have been quite a scene over it.

The Conference assembled at 4 p. m. There was a song at the outset. Six resolutions were passed, and these were moved, seconded and supported by speeches as usual. Mr. A. Rasul in moving the partition resolution said that they could never accept the partition ; they had never, nor would they ever accept it. He said point blank, that there was an impression abroad in East Bengal, that West Bengal did not really feel that Bengal had been partitioned. While East Bengal had refused to send members to its new Council, West Bengal was sending members to its Council without any hesitation. He further said that West Bengal people were giving address to, their L.-G., while, if East

Bengal people attempted to do anything of the sort, they were cried down. There ought to be a unity in action and sympathy for each other, if there was to be real union between the two Bengals. The audience, especially the East Bengal delegates enjoyed these remarks very much.

Pandit Gispati Kabyatirtha of Howrah while supporting the Boycott and Swadeshi resolutions tried to justify the action of the members of the West Bengal Council, but the audience grew angry and he was hissed down to his seat.

The Conference dissolved at about 7 p. m. The whole pandal was filled to over-flowing by spectators and visitors. Admittance was free. The Police were near the Pandal, and East Bengal delegates objected to this, but no heed was paid to their objection.

The Subjects Committee sat at 8 p. m., and continued till about 10-30 p. m. It was a lively affair but this time it was a friendly gathering. The tact and judgment shown by the President, Mr. D. N. Singh, made it possible for such smooth sailing. It was resolved that the Conference would re-assemble at 8 next morning.

17 .

Third Day's Proceedings of the Conference

*(As reported in the Amrita Bazar Patrika
on 6. 4. 1907)*

The Conference assembled at 8 in the morning. The Bhagalpur volunteers sang the national anthem "Bande Mataram", and the audience stood up. Two Dinajpur volunteers sang another soul-stirring national song, which appealed to every heart. Then one young gentleman repeated a soul-stirring poem describing in all detail the woes and distress of our common motherland, and asking all her sons to unite to a man to alleviate them. The President then asked Babu Surendranath Banerjea to move the resolution about the Comilla disturbances. He moved that resolution, sympathising with the people of Comilla. He described in glowing terms the apathy of the officials in giving protection to the Hindus and exposed them mercilessly. He said that sympathy must be active and appealed for funds to start a Defence Society for Comilla. Then there was a scene which it is not for us to describe. Rs. 221 was collected on the spot, and in all Rs. 2,699 was subscribed for. It is impossible to describe the enthusiasm of that day. All felt that the cause of Comilla was the cause of Bengal. A Committee was formed with Mr. A. Rasul as

treasurer. Mr. Rasul, on behalf of Comilla, thanked them all for their active help and sympathy.

The next resolution was about National Education. The President asked Babu Bepin chandra pal to move it. Babu Bepinchandra spoke in Bengali. It was a philosophical speech and touched the hearts of all present.

The resolution on the constitution of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee was put from the Chair. The districts were asked to form Associations immediately. It was passed by an overwhelming majority, few objecting. All other resolutions were passed unanimously. The delegation fee was fixed at Rs. 2 for outsiders, and Rs. 5 for local delegates.

Babu Surendranath Banerjea announced that the next Conference would assemble next year at Pabna, in the New Province. Babu Kaminikumar Chanda of Silchar at once retorted that there was only one Bengal—the United Bengal and no new Province. Babu Surendranath at once apologised; indeed it was a slip of tongue—they were all one and the same.

Babu Baikuntanath Sen then thanked, on behalf of the Reception Committee, the delegates for their trouble and self-sacrifice. He was glad that the differences between two parties had been very tactfully avoided by the President. The President,

he said, was not only a man of strong mind, but of strong body too. He said that there were no two parties in the country ; he refused to believe that ; there was only one party with one goal in its view—the party of mother-land. His speech was a nice and beautiful one and it was appreciated by all present.

The President in bringing the Conference to a close thanked all for their trouble, and said that all must unite in the sacred cause of motherland. His speech was glowing. He was received with tremendous cheers.

With loud and prolonged cheers of Bande Mataram, the proceedings of the Conference were brought to a close at 1-30 p. m.

18

An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 3. 4. 07

The Bengal Provincial Conference

The Bengal Provincial Conference, that met at Berhampur on the 29th, 30th, 31st of March was one of the most successful Conferences ever held. Babu Boicantanath Sen, the Secretary of the Conference, the recognised leader of Public opinion at Berhampur and one of our foremost Congressmen,

explained the circumstances under which the Conference was held at Berhampur. It was a complete justification and a complete refutation of the criticism that had appeared in the papers in this connection. Babu Boicanthanath Sen is entitled to the gratitude of the country for his public spirit and his self-sacrificial devotion to the interests of the country. Not once or twice, but again and again has he thrown himself into the breach when there was none else to do so. When it was resolved in 1895 to hold the Provincial Conference in the moffasil towns, Berhampur, under the leadership of Babu Boicantanath Sen, was the first to give effect to this resolution by inviting the Conference to Berhampur. Again when in 1902 there was an interruption in the Session of the Conference and the fate of the movement seemed to tremble in the balance, Babu Boicantanath Sen again came to the rescue by inviting the Conference to Berhampur. Owing to the dispersal of the Conference at Barisal last year, the place for the next session of the Conference could not be fixed. Again Babu Boicantanath Sen invited the Conference to meet at Berhampur. Services, so distinguished and rendered with such ungrudging cheerfulness, are entitled to the most cordial acknowledgements of the community ; and at Berhampur, let it be

noted, not a question was raised by any of the delegates as to the so-called impropriety of holding the conference at Berhampur. We purposely refrained from commenting upon this matter and still further complicating the situation, because we felt confident that the justification would come in its own good time, and our anticipations have been fulfilled. When the Conference commenced its sittings at Berhampur, the air seemed to be surcharged with electricity. There were ominous forebodings of a storm. But thanks to the tact and spirit of compromise, which the leaders showed throughout the discussions, the deliberations ended in the acceptance of resolutions which practically represented the unanimous sense of the delegates. On one or two occasions in the discussions in the Subjects Committee the Resolutions were put to the vote and carried by a majority. But the discussions left no sting behind and there was no disposition among the delegates to call in question the decision of the Subjects Committee, at the public meeting of the Conference. The fact is significant of the temper of the Conference. There were indeed marked differences of opinion in certain matters ; but it was abundantly clear that if the delegates knew how to differ, they knew also how to sink their differences for combined action. The temper is as

healthy as it is significant of the genuine public-spirit that pervades the country. The President's speech came upon all as a surprise. It was a grand effort. His nomination had been subjected to adverse criticism. His speech silenced his critics and disarmed all opposition ; and his conduct in the Chair was worthy of the highest praise. The Resolutions speak for themselves. The proceedings opened with the protest against the partition of Bengal and the adoption of 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' resolutions. The feeling of indignation against the partition and of enthusiasm for the Swadeshi is as strong as ever. But perhaps the most striking resolution was that relating to the Comilla disturbances. An appeal was made for funds to help the defence. It elicited a warm and prompt response. Everybody emptied his purse into the hats or more properly speaking, into the caps that were sent around. A strange feeling pervaded the audience, and the idea embodied in the Resolution underwent an immediate expansion and the Conference warmly accepted the proposal of a general defence fund. Let there be no misconception as to the character of this Fund. It is to be a fund not for assisting Hindus only. It is to be a general fund for helping Hindus and Mahomedans who may be prosecuted by the Police which now prevail in the Comilla

district. The nucleus of a Defence Fund has been formed. We appeal to our country-men to subscribe to it.

19

Conference Misrepresentations

A letter To The Editor of the "Bengalee"

Sir,

In its issue of to-day your contemporary the 'Bande Mataram' has given a description of the happenings at Berhampur during the Conference days. I admire your contemporary's enterprise, but I am sorry to find that the writer, whoever he may be, has indulged in certain misrepresentations with what object, it is not known. Reading his description one is spontaneously struck with his bias against the old leaders, for whenever it suited his purpose he tilted at them and invented lies to discredit them. For instance, when he says that when the 'Bande Mataram' song was sung, the whole assembly was on its legs with the exception of "Babus Surendranath Banerjea and Bhupendranath Bose and a few others", he says something which is far from being true. The fact of the matter is that on the first day when the song was being sung everybody kept his seat with the exception of Rai Yatindranath Chaudhury and one or two others and that was for the

sole object of avoiding a confusion which was by no means absent—if not conspicuously present—on the opening day. When the song was sung on the last day the whole assembly got up and Surendra Babu and others got up also.

Secondly—it is absolutely untrue that Babus Surendranath Banerjea, Bhupendranath Bose and Mr. A. Chaudhuri were ruled out of order by the President. An incident like this never took place at all. Apparently the writer was drawing upon his imagination.

Lastly with regard to the election of the Subjects Committee, the writer quotes a passage-at-arms between Babu Surendranath Banerjea and a delegate. The “delegate”, I may tell the public at the outset, is no other than Babu Hemendraprasad Ghosh of the ‘Bande Mataram’ staff. The fact is that as soon as Babu Surendranath said “Can’t you be more temperate in your language”, there was, instead of a “quick retort”, a spontaneous collapse of Hemendraprasad, who sat down tongue-tied, the retort perhaps sticking in his throat.

I shall not notice the other misrepresentations in the ‘Bande Mataram’ “Special” as being of minor importance, but shall conclude by warning the public against accepting the statements of this writer as absolute truths.

April 2.

A Spectator

20

An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 4.4.07*The Berhampur Conference*

The Berhampur Conference was significant in many ways. It worked upon the lines of the last Congress and once again in clear and distinct terms re-echoed the new-born spirit, the immediate product of the partition and aggravated by the blunders of the Government. The people were resolved to work out their destinies in their own way. The Government itself is largely responsible for this temper of the public mind. The growing public spirit of the country stimulated by the reactionary policy of the last twenty years, of which the partition of Bengal was the crowning achievement, has brought about the present situation. It is a situation full of hope and promise. It is proof against both persecution and indifference. Last year at Barisal delegates were assaulted, the Conference was dispersed and one of our political leaders was arrested, convicted and fined on grounds which have since been declared irregular, if not illegal, by the highest judicial tribunal in the land. The Gurkhas, military police and regulation lathies have each in turn been tried and found wanting. And ever since the political movement has been growing ! An impression seemed to prevail some time ago that the Government could

kill the national movement, if not by repression, at least by indifference. Repression or indifference—the people seem equally determined to proceed on their way. They may or may not be within sight of the promised land, but they have at least taken the preliminary step of developing a clear consciousness of ‘positive’ duty and are no longer dependent upon the environment for stimulus. This practical independence of the environment, that they have secured for themselves, is a sure sign that the movement is spiritual in its character and that no forces, devised by the ingenuity of man, can arrest its growth.

The congress, as we have so often said, can for the present confine its energies only to the laying down of general principles. It is for the provinces to carry the principles into practice. This seems to be clearly recognised by our people everywhere. Indeed, the Congress itself helped this recognition by adopting a constitution for itself at its last sitting which left much of the practical work to be done by the provincial or district associations. We have had at least a couple of Conferences in Bengal itself since the last Congress—the District Conference at Comilla and the Provincial Conference at Berhampur. At both these conferences distinct progress has been made along the line laid down by the Congress.

The Comilla Conference, as we said on a previous occasion, embodied the new born spirit to a remarkable extent. The Conference at Berhampur marks another step in advance in the same direction. Our mind is too full of the subject for us at this movement to take a calm and dispassionate view of the situation. But it seems only reasonable to assert that from the point of view of the nationalist, the last Conference easily beats the record. The resolutions were mostly if not all of a declaratory nature. Government was not ignored as it could not possibly be. It is a power that exists and must be reckoned with in all our schemes and deliberations. But the people, true to their new ideals, confined themselves to expressing an opinion on the doings and misdoings of Government and insisted upon the redemption of pledges when given. The speeches were, without almost a single exception, conceived in the nationalistic spirit. There was, indeed, a clear recognition that the Government can help the cause of India's self-development to a very considerable extent. But as the Gaekwar of Baroda observed on a memorable occasion, if such help must be done without, it is useless to regret. There is besides the important consideration that a time has at length come when the people, not the Government, must lead the vanguard of progress. The stage of anticipation,

as we remarked the other day, has already passed. The Government can now only concede. It will concede, as we know, if the people are sufficiently in earnest. The people have shown their earnestness by addressing themselves to the supreme task of organizing the forces of life. Most of the resolutions passed at the last Conference were calculated to serve this end. National education, swadesi and boycott, arbitration courts, all are steps in that direction. The Provincial and District Committees which will soon come into existence will have no mere deliberative functions. They will execute, as well as deliberate. The nation has thus begun in right earnest and the goal of political and economic emancipation cannot be far off.

Provincial Conference and Swadesi

It is a significant fact that in all the Provincial Conferences, no matter, where they have been held, there has been invariably a resolution in some form or other in support of the 'Swadesi' movement. At Surat, in Bombay, at Raipur in the Central Province, at Allahabad in the United Province, at Berhampur in Bengal, wherever a Provincial Conference has been held, wherever a number of our people have gathered together to discuss public questions, they felt that there was one question

which was uppermost in their thoughts and to which they were bound to give expression. Swadesism has captured the mind of the country. It has become a pan-Indian problem, the burning question of the hour with our multitudinous people. Its triumph is assured and with it is bound up the industrial emancipation of the country, as history teaches us that industrial emancipation is the royal road to political regeneration. Let us not, in the midst of our controversies, forget the golden secret which we have discovered or relax our efforts to ensure the triumph of 'Swadesism'. That is in the present situation of the country the first and foremost question ; all others sink into comparative insignificance, when compared with it as the instrument of national regeneration.

The Defence Fund

We trust subscriptions will be forthcoming in aid of the Defence Fund which has been started at Berhampur. Let there be no misconception as to its character. It is not a Defence Fund to help Hindus only. It is the common Defence Fund of Hindus and Mahomedans. It is not a part of any sectarian movement.

More Conference Untruths and Half-truths

An esteemed friend writes :—

In view of the mischievous activity of certain malicious and “mendacious scribblers” who have had the brazen impudence to publish all manner of untruths and half-truths, which are usually worse than untruths, in connection with the proceedings of the Berhampur Conference, and by way of supplementing what a correspondent, signing himself “A Spectator”, writes in the correspondence columns of this morning’s ‘Bengalee’, I trust I may be permitted a little space in your paper to deal with the latest budget of lies published in connection with the Conference.

For instance, ‘Bande Mataram’ of 3rd April contains an account from its Special Reporter of what took place at the meeting of the Subjects Committee, which I can only characterize as a tissue of malevolent inventions. What happened is this :—A small number of delegates, who were members of the Subjects Committee, including Babu Bepinchandra Pal, had taken their seats in the Pandal, although it had been publicly announced by the President himself on the previous day that the Subjects Committee was to meet in the Central Hall of Recreation Club. They were requested to come to the Recreation Club but they refused to do so. In vain Mr. A. Choudhuri,

Babu Ambikacharan Mozumdar and Babu Boycantanath Sen personally begged of them to be reasonable, but they seemed to be inexorable and were polite enough to want the President to come to them. The President declined to do so, sending to the recalcitrant delegates a note inviting them to come to the club and pointing out that the place of meeting had been fixed and publicly announced by him the day before. More than seventy-five percent of the delegates had already assembled at the Central Hall of the club and they had fully made up their minds to commence the proceedings without the Adullamites, should they still persist in staying away. The latter were evidently under no delusion as to the attitude of the Subjects Committee, for they quietly trooped in, as soon as they found that they were going to be ignored. This very discreet climbing down on their part reminded a leading delegate of a certain story which he related with infinite gusto to a select company of delegates and which I cannot resist the temptation of narrating for the edification of your readers. It was a little urchin who in a fit of boyish temper refused to touch his food. His father begged of him, his mother implored him, his sisters entreated him to take his food but the persuasive efforts of the whole family proved unavailing. But hunger, like time and tide, waits for nobody and as the sun

reached the meridian, anger gave place to hunger the pangs of which drove him to resort to a very queer dodge. Climbing a tree which over-looked the house of his parents, our hero stationed himself on its top-most branch, and shouted out as loudly as his hunger would permit him—"If anyone will now ask me to take my food, there shall be no more refusal." It is absurd to characterise the action of the majority as a 'coup' that the minority consented to come to the club only on the "party in possession consenting to empty half the Hall." As the "party in possession" out-numbered the other party in proportion of three to one, it was physically as impossible for them to have vacated half the Hall as it would have been a superhuman feat on the part of the minority to have filled a space capable of accommodating twice their number. I know that the ambition to play the 'role' of a leader makes the consciences of certain people extremely elastic. I have yet to learn that the elasticity extends to the body also. Again, it is absolutely false to say that "Mr. Surendranath Banerjea advocated the rejection of those in the Pandal and wanted to proceed with business." What Babu Surendranath said was that the authority of the Chair was supreme and must be obeyed and the President heartily concurred in this observation. I next read that the allusion to "mendacious scribblers"

gave rise to a "mild chorus of hisses." Nothing of the kind. It was much appreciated by an overwhelming majority of delegates some of whom openly expressed their approval of the sentiments of the speaker. I will now proceed to relate the unbroken series of crushing defeats which were sustained by Babu Bipin Pal and his handful of followers. They first objected to the wording of the condolence resolution and moved an amendment. But Babu Surendranath disposed of it so effectively in a few words, that Bipin Babu at once withdrew it. The writer in 'Bande Mataram' is discreetly silent as to the name of the mover of this ill-fated amendment. There was some discussion regarding the partition resolution. Bipin Babu suggested that there should be no speeches and the resolution should be put from the Chair. Babu Surendranath opposed this proposal and pointed out that the Resolution was too important to be disposed of in silence and this being the sense of the meeting, Bipin Babu was again defeated. And a similar disaster befell the latter in connection with the Swadesi and boycott resolution. Bipin Babu of course moved an amendment but had to withdraw it in order to avoid its rejection and the original resolution, as drafted by Babu Surendranath, was adopted by the Conference. Then there was a Resolution regarding

the District and Local Boards. It was merely a repetition of the Congress Resolution on the same subject. As however the delegates from East Bengal were found to be opposed to it, the other delegates did not press the matter, Babu Surendranath remarking that the goodwill of our brethren in East Bengal is a matter of far greater importance than a Resolution of this kind. Referring to the Resolution regarding the separation of Judicial from Executive functions, 'Bande Mataram' says that it was accepted, "denuded of its mendicant garb." This is an unqualified untruth, as the Resolution was accepted bodily without any modification whatsoever. I next come to the fiction that Mr. A. Chowdhury was called to order by the President in connection with a certain incident. As this incident, which I shall presently relate, occurred after the meeting had been over and when the President had automatically become 'functus officio' he could no more call any of the disputants to order than he could fine them or send them to jail. What happened was this. After the meeting had broken up, Mr. A. Choudhuri charged Bipin Babu with having published in his paper, 'New India', a downright lie about himself in connection with the deputation to the Viceroy. Bipin Babu replied—"I am not here as editor of

'New India'—a most valiant and crushing retort no doubt, leaving regard to the character of the charge. I see 'Bande Mataram' is discreetly silent about the Sanitation Resolution over which Bipin Babu sustained another crushing defeat. As the Resolution contains a clear reference to Government action, it is rather inexplicable how, notwithstanding its "garb of mendicancy" it could find a proposer in a member of the 'Bande Mataram' staff, unless indeed the mover was too simple to understand the meaning of the Resolution. I see 'Bande Mataram' wants to know what Babu Bhupendrnath Bose has got to do with the projected National Bank which was announced by him. I shall satisfy the writer's curiosity. Bhupen Babu happens to be one of the promoters of the projected Bank, though I am afraid this information will not be particularly acceptable to the writer who seems to have a peculiar affection for Bhupen Babu.

21

An Editorial Note of the Bengalee on 5.4.07*Conference Misrepresentation*

With reference to the mis-statements about the Berhampore Conference, Babu Kaminikumar Chanda the well-known pleader of Silchar, has sent us the following :—

“With reference to the account published in today’s ‘Bengalee’, I am afraid the writer is not cognisant of all the facts and I proceed to supplement what he has published with the facts which I know. It is possible—or even probable—that I may not know everything but I do know something. At the first meeting of the conference, it was decided and announced that the Subjects Committee would meet on the following morning at 7 A.M. It was then suggested by, among others, myself to Babu Surendranath Banerjea that the place of meeting ought to be mentioned. And the President did, as a matter of fact, announce that the Subjects Committee would meet at the Recreation Club, as it was a more suitable place for the Committee than the pandal from where it would be difficult to keep out the public. Babus Surendranath Banerjea, Asutosh Choudhury, Jogeshchandra Choudhuri, Bhupendranath Basu and other Calcutta delegates were accommodated at the Lalgola house which was at a considerable distance from the pandal ; and when they came to the club, it was nearly 8 o’clock and seats were then arranged for them in the Central hall of the club, and they were seated and the President also took his seat. It was then found that a number of members of the Subjects Committee were apparently holding a separate meeting in the pandal.

Babu Baikunthanath Sen had unsuccessfully endeavoured to induce them to come to the club where the committee was to have its sitting. Several other attempts failed and then a note was sent to them by the President, saying that the meeting would be held at the club. I was at the same time requested to go and ask Bipin Babu and the others to come over to the club. I suggested that Babu Hemendraprasad Ghosh should also go, and accordingly, we two went to the pandal where we found that a meeting, under the presidency of Babu Tarapada Banerjea, was apparently going on. My first appeal to Bipin Babu did not meet with any encouragement. I then asked Babu Tarapada Banerjea why they were sitting at the pandal when the Conference had decided that the Committee was to sit at the club. It then transpired that some of them had not heard the announcement that the meeting would be held at the club. Tarapada Babu also said that they had the President's authority that the meeting would be held at the pandal and that they had found that there were no seats at the club, whereas seats had specially been arranged at the pandal for the Committee, and they were shown these seats and they declined to be "driven from post to pillar." In support of Tarapada Babu's statement, Babu Rajatnath Rai said that the

President had told him that it was thought at first that the Committee should sit in the pandal but it was eventually decided that the meeting should be held at the club, but it was again being considered as to whether the pandal would not be a better place. Babu Nareschandra Sen Gupta then stated that he had, on his own authority, arranged the chairs for the Committee at the pandal, being under the impression that the meeting would be held there. I then put it to Tarapada Babu whether the decision of the Conference that the Committee would sit at the club could be modified even by the President. Tarapada Babu at once admitted the force of my argument and said to the members present that the point raised by me was unanswerable and that they were bound by the decision of the Conference and he would take their votes. Then someone—I forget who it was—said that they would come to the club if the hall was first vacated as all positions of vantage must have been occupied by those in occupation of the room. I said the suggestion was unreasonable but that half of the room, if necessary, might be given to them. I should say that I acted on my own authority and I came back and announced that they would come but half the room would have to be vacated. I cannot say that all were pleased with this settlement

and Babu Krishnakumar 'Mitra refused to vacate his seat. But nearly half the room was vacated and I went again to the pandal and there Babu Ambicacharan Majumdar and Asutosh Chaudhury were also discussing the matter with those present. On their being told that half the room was vacated, they came out.

An Editorial Note of the 'Bengalee' on 7.4.07

The Conference and After

* * *

On most questions there was an absolute unanimity of opinion. On some questions there were differences, even serious differences, but not differences serious enough to make co-operation impossible.

Our needs, let us say once for all, are mostly of a crying nature. The days of arm-chair politicians, if such there ever were, are gone, irretrievably gone. There is not a moment to be lost. The country knows and feels that a moment lost means some additional difficulties thrown in our way. The work of organization must be taken in hand at once. Indeed, it has already made some progress. But this progress must be more rapid if it is to keep pace with the progress of ideas. The last Congress recognised this and, therefore, adopted

a Constitution for itself which might not be perfect as a constitution, but which certainly imposed on the country the supreme task of organizing itself. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that the Berhampore Conference fulfilled this task, so far as in it lay. Provisions have been made for the Organisation of District Committees and a Provincial Committee. General principles of a workable nature have been laid down. Let our people, both in Calcutta and in the interior, now do their part of the work. Everything depends upon them. Congresses and Conferences can only lay down principles and can harmonise and give unity to the efforts of distinct units. The real practical work must be done by the units themselves. It is the life of the whole, indeed, which is and must be in every part, but it is through the parts, after all, that the work of the living organism must be carried on. Let us all remember, to once more quote Mazzini, that we are every one of us responsible for the rest. Each district and each local centre must feel that it is on the fulfilment of its own duty that the salvation of the whole country depends. The Committees, under the new Constitution, are to be no more deliberative bodies. They will practically have a scope co-extensive with the entire range of our collective life. That life is, indeed,

touched on a few points by the bureaucracy ; very vital points these, but nevertheless only a few. Much, however, may be done to counteract the pernicious tendencies of the bureaucratic system, if only people are properly organised in spheres which the bureaucracy does not and cannot touch. It is, after all, in these spheres that the national consciousness and the national character must acquire that strength which will almost automatically sound the death-knell of the present form and system of autocratic government. Among the most important duties of the District and Provincial Committees would be the political education of the people, the organisation of indigenous industries and the promotion of industrial and commercial life generally, the education of the people on national lines, the organisation of arbitration courts and let us add, the promotion of sanitation. Not one of these items can perhaps be unacceptable to any of us. There is, therefore, no excuse of either apathy or indifference. Let all of us put our shoulders to the wheel and perchance the problem of India's salvation may be solved much earlier than the most sanguine among us can anticipate.

Bengal Provincial Conferences

Year	Place	Presidents
1888	Calcutta	Mahendralal Sarkar.
1889	Calcutta	Pearymohan Mukherjee
1890	Calcutta	Pringle Kennedy.
1891	Calcutta	Revd. A. Paton Begg.
1892	Calcutta	Baikunthanath Sen.
1893	No Session.	
1894	Calcutta	Narendranath Sen.
1895	Berhampur	Anandamohon Bose.
1896	Krishnagar	Guruprasad Sen.
1897	Natore	Satyendranath Tagore.
1898	Dacca	Kalicharan Bandyopadhyay.
1899	Burdwan	Ambikacharan Majumdar.
1900	Bhagalpur	Binaykrishna Deb.
1901	Midnapur	Nagendranath Ghosh.
1902	No Session.	
1903	Berhampur	Jagadindranath Ray.
1904	Burdwan	Asutosh Chaudhuri.
1905	Mymensingh	Bhupendranath Bose.
1906	Barisal	Abdul Rasul.
1907	Berhampur	Dipnarain Singh.
1908	Pabna	Rabindranath Tagore.
1909	Hooghly	Baikunthanath Sen.
1910	Calcutta	Ambikacharan Majumdar.
1911	Faridpur	Yatindranath Ray Chaudhuri
1912	Chittagong	Abdul Rasul.
1913	Dacca	Aswainikumar Datta.

1914	Comilla	Byomkes Chakravarti.
1915	Krishnagar	Matilal Ghosh.
1916	No Session.	
1917	Calcutta	Chittaranjan Das.
1918	Hooghly	Akhilchandra Datta.
1919	Mymensingh	Jatramohan Sen.
1920	Midnapur	A. K. Fazlul Haque.
1921	Barisal	Bipinchandra Pal.
1922	Chittagong	Basanti Debi.
1923	Jessore	Syamsundar Chakravarti.
1924	Sirajgung (Pabna)	M. M. Akram Khan.
1925	Faridpur	Chittaranjan Das.
1926	Krishnagar	Birendranath Sasmal.
1927	Maju (Howrah)	Jogendranath Chakravarti.
1928	Basirhat	Jatindramohan Sen Gupta.
1929	Rangpur	Subhaschandra Bose.
1930	Rajshahi	Bipinbihari Ganguli.
1931	Berhampur	Haradayal Nag.
1932	No Session.	
1933	No Session.	
1934	No Session.	
1935	Dinajpur	Indranarayan Sen.
1936	No Session.	
1937	No Session.	
1938	Bisnupur (Bankura)	Jatindramohan Ray.
1939	Jalpaiguri	Saratchandra Bose.
1940	Dacca	Jyotishchandra Ghosh.

